

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilden Sutton Parish Council held on Wednesday, 5th February 2025 at 7:30PM at Guilden Sutton Village Hall

Chairman: Cllr S Ringstead

Present: Cllr A Davis, Cllr D Hughes, Cllr P M Paterson, Cllr V Roberts

Clerk: Mr M Roberts

In attendance: Mr B Lewin, Ms E-C Hewitt, Mr D Oxley, and 3 members of the public.

1. Procedural Matters

(a) To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Littlewood and Cllr Whelan

Apologies were received and noted from Borough Cllrs Heatley and Parker.

(b) To consider the Code of Conduct and Members' interests

Cllrs Hughes, Littlewood and Whelan as members of Guilden Sutton Green Space.

Cllrs Hughes and Whelan as a member of Guilden Sutton Community Association.

Cllr Ringstead as a member of her household is a member of Men in Sheds.

Cllrs Paterson, Littlewood and Ringstead as members of the Wildflower Garden project group.

Cllr Hughes as a governor of Guilden Sutton Primary School.

(c) Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 15th January 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Davis seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15th January 2025 be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

(d) Dates of future meetings.

5th March

2nd April

7th May

4th June

16th July

3rd September

1st October

5th November

3rd December

(e) Vacancy in the office of Councillor

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the Council would exclude members of the public for this item to discuss confidential information under the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed that both candidates would be considered for co-option by the Council

Following a discussion of both candidates, it was agreed by show of hands that Emma-Clare Hewitt would be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Council until the next quadrennial elections in 2027.

The Council noted it was fortunate to have two strong candidates and it was unfortunate that there was only one vacancy. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would approach the unsuccessful candidate with regards to other opportunities that exist to support the Council's work.

The meeting was re-opened to the public and Cllr Hewitt, having signed the acceptance of office, joined the meeting.

2. Community Engagement/Communications

(a) Visiting members' speaking time

There were no visiting members.

(b) Visiting officers' speaking time

Mr Lewin noted a fallen tree on the Greenway.

(c) Public Speaking Time

Mr Lewin noted that a road closure order had been issued for Church Lane.

A member of the public asked about the attendance of ward members.

A member of the public asked about progress with regards to a footpath on Station Lane and asked as to whether a skip could be provided as a one-off in the spring to allow residents to dispose of garden waste prior to the commencement of garden bin collections.

(d) To receive a report concerning recent Public Correspondence.

The Council had received an offer to cut hedges on Guilden Sutton Lane and had been informed of a fallen fence on Guilden Sutton Lane

(e) To receive a report from Councillors presiding at the recent Surgery

Cllr Davis reported that queries had been received regarding the overgrown hedges on Guilden Sutton Lane and a recent planning appeal.

It was agreed that Cllrs Davis and Ringstead would preside at the next surgery on 1st March.

(f) To receive a report from the Communications sub-committee

It was noted that the Communications group had requested to meet prior to the main March PC meeting.

(g) To receive a report from the Support Group

The support group had helped with a road accident on the A41, clearing litter after a storm, removal of a fallen tree on the Greenway and circulating information regarding road closures.

(h) To consider matters regarding sustainability

Nothing further.

3. Open Spaces

(a) Guilden Sutton GreenSpace

Cllr Hughes enquired as to whether the Council had made provisions to insure activities planned by the GreenSpace and Sustainability group.

(b) Wildflower Garden

It was noted that the group were supportive of the suggestion to install a grit box on the Wildflower site.

(c) Old School Field

Nothing further.

(d) Dog fouling

Nothing further.

(e) Grit Box

The Clerk reported on a number of options for the Council to purchase grit boxes. It was proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Ringstead and agreed that the Council would purchase two 200 litre grit boxes at a cost of £109+VAT each.

(f) Hilltop Road Wildflowers

It was noted that a members' budget application has been submitted for the Hilltop Road area. It was proposed by Cllr Ringstead, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the Clerk be authorised to incur expenditure up to the total of the grant amount in order to procure any time-critical items.

(g) Graveyard Grant

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed that the Council fund the Green Waste bin at the Church at a cost of £52.50.

4. Transport and Highways

(a) To receive an update on Public Transport issues and additional government funding

Cllr Ringstead reported that the Neighbourhood Plan group had noted that the current public transport system was not conducive to employment opportunities within the Village and this could provide another angle for future research.

(b) To receive an update from Councillors involved in the footpath working group.

Nothing further.

(c) To receive an update on Community Speedwatch

Nothing further.

(d) To consider the offer of a ward walk with the Highways and StreetCare teams.

It was noted that the Clerk would enquire as to the availability of the highways officer.

(e) To review the Actions Log

Reference	Issue	Details	Status
HW671903322	Grid/Drain – Blocked School Lane	Reported December '24 TP	
HW682243728	Street Light – War memorial	Reported January '25 ML	

(f) A41 pedestrian crossing.

The Clerk reported that the matter was progressing with the support of a member of the public.

5. Planning

(a) New applications:

25/00119/TPO	8 Oaklands 1 x Oak tree - crown lift over footpaths and driveway to provide 3m clearance over ground level. Crown lift over road to provide 5-6m clearance over ground level (back to kerb +1m of turf), remove major deadwood and crossing branches, and reduce lateral branches to provide 2m vertical clearance from the garage roof and 2m lateral clearance from the property elevations (no pruning of branches larger than 5cm diameter)	NO OBJECTION
25/00246/TPO	1 The Hall School Lane Beech tree (T1) - 3m reduction on mature Beech tree. Crown thin and deadwood. Conifer trees (T2, T3, T4) - Reduce top of Conifers by 8ft. Beech tree (T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10) - Reduce small Beech trees on roadside down to 8ft 60 form a hedge row over time. Laurel (T11) - Cut laurel back to boundary off pavement and road. Cherry tree (T12) - Severe ivy on base of Cherry tree and undertake a 1.5m reduction. Holly tree (T13) - Reduce top of Holly tree by 6ft. Conifer tree (T14) - Reduce top of tallest Conifer by 8ft	24 February 2025

(b) Awaiting Decision:

24/00935/FUL	Land Adjacent To Electricity Substation and A55 Belle Vue Lane Guilden Sutton Chester Construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) designed to provide grid network services to National Grid and local electricity Distribution Network Operator (DNO) SP Manweb	NO OBJECTION
24/02614/OUT	18 Ash Bank Hare Lane Two storey dwelling	OBJECTION
24/03409/FUL	Cheshire West and Chester Council Chester Area Highways Office Guilden Sutton Lane	NO OBJECTION

(c) Decision Notices

APP/A0665/W/24/3347732	The Old School Guilden Sutton Lane Change of use of agricultural land to residential to extend garden curtilage.	APPEAL UPHELD
24/03078/FUL	The Lodge School Lane Erection of replacement dwelling (part retrospective)	APPROVED

d) Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing further.

6. Trees and Hedges

Cllr Paterson reported a large number of fallen branches following recent storms.

7. Finance

(a) To note recent items of income:

Cheshire West and Chester Council (Members Grant) £645.00

(b) To approve recent items of spending:

M Roberts (Salary)	At agreed rate
R Ringstead (Salary)	At agreed rate
HMRC (Payroll)	£145.60 (no VAT)
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Grounds Maintenance)	£312.00 (inc. £52.00 VAT)
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Lengthsman)	£234.00 (inc. £39.00 VAT)
St. John's Church (Green Bin)	£52.50 (no VAT)
Information Commissioner (Registration Fee)	£47.00 (no VAT)*

* Paid by direct debit

(c) To approve updated account balances

Co-Operative Current Account	£6,880.87
Co-Operative Deposit Account	£10,543.76
Scottish Widows Business Fund 1	£19,852.16
Scottish Widows Business Fund 2	£4,319.15
Cambridge Building Society Deposit Account	£60,000.00

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the above listed payments would be made and balances be approved. The Clerk would process payments and Cllr Hughes would authorise.

(d) Precept 2025-26

It was noted that the precept has been approved by CWAC and the Council's calculations confirmed as correct.

(e) Graveyard Grant

Nothing further.

8. Grounds Maintenance

(a) Hare Lane Village Green

It was noted that the Council's application for CWAC members' grants had been successful and a contractor had been appointed to carry out the works. The total cost of the groundworks will be £645+VAT.

(b) Play Area

It was noted that further quotes were awaited.

(c) Beacon

Cllr Paterson noted that the original beacon on Hare Lane had fallen and asked if the Council would consider re-siting it in another area in the Village. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach GSGS.

9. Primary School

Cllr Hughes referenced the financial situation of schools.

Cllr Davis noted a bingo event was due to take place.

10. War Memorial

Nothing further.

11. Members Information

Cllr Roberts noted that the Primary School had written to parents referencing a near-miss with a car and pedestrian in close proximity to the school.

Cllr Roberts noted recent national events and asked, in reference to the Village Hall, whether there had been any change in policy for public buildings.

Cllr Paterson noted that a fire had occurred at the bin close to the Dental Surgery.

Cllr Hewitt asked regarding the process for reporting abandoned vehicles.

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed by Cllr Ringstead, seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed that the Council would exclude members of the public to discuss confidential information under the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

Cheshire West and Chester Councils proposed next steps with regards to an enforcement matter were noted.

Meeting closed at 21:00
