

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilden Sutton Parish Council held on 4th October 2023, at 7:30PM at Guilden Sutton Village Hall

Chairman: Cllr D Hughes

Present: Cllr A Davis, Cllr P M Paterson, Cllr S Ringstead, Cllr R Whelan

Clerk: M Roberts

In attendance: Mrs S Proctor, Mr B Lewin, Mrs V Downing, Mr W Moulton, Mr R Norrie, and 4 other members of the public.

1. Procedural Matters

(a) Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Littlewood and Cllr D Walters.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Heatley. Cllr M Parker and PCSO Bailey.

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

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

Cllr Hughes as a member of Guilden Sutton Community Association.

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

Cllr Ringstead as a representative of the Village Green Group.

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

(c) Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 6th September.

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Ringstead and agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6th September 2023 be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

(d) Dates of future meetings.

1st November

6th December

The following dates were agreed as outline dates for 2024, along with selected dates for Open Forums and Committee meetings:

Date	Proposed 7pm meeting
10 th January *	
7 th February	Open Forum
6 th March	Communications Group
3 rd April	Annual Parish Meeting
1 st May (Annual)	
5 th June	Open Forum
17 th July *	
4 th September	Communications Group
2 nd October	Open Forum (Budget)
6 th November	
4 th December	Open Forum

2. Community Engagement/Communications

(a) Visiting Members

There were no visiting members.

(b) Visiting Officers

Mr Lewin provided an update regarding public rights of way.

(c) Public Speaking

Mr Norrie asked if the Council would be prepared to fund winter pansies for the planters in the Village Hall car park area as had been done last year.

Mr Norrie noted that the Community Association had not been approached by the Council with regards to the proposal to install a Grit Box.

Mrs Downing noted that a decision had been made with regards to lease land in the Village for the citation of benches and to improve the general appearance of the area.

Mrs Downing noted that the Council recorded items under 'Village Green', relating to the Pipers Ash Village Green, that was not related to the Village Green Group.

Mrs Proctor noted that the most dangerous area of Hare Lane had not been resurfaced in recent works. There was a puddle on the motorway bridge and damage has not been repaired on Belle Vue Lane. Where tarmac had been laid over manhole covers, this had not been removed.

(d) Correspondence

Correspondence had been received regarding:

The Wildflower garden lease

The Bus Service

The Community Association

Hare Lane resurfacing

Community Speedwatch

Parish Council vacancy

(e) Surgery

Cllr Davis reported that he had attended with Cllr Littlewood. Concerns had been raised with regards to trees in the Parish Car Park. A resident had asked about a light on the side of the Village Hall. A resident had requested a reinstatement of the 1350 bus service.

It was agreed that Cllrs Whelan and Ringstead would preside at the next surgery to be held on 28th October.

(f) Communications

It was noted that the Communications group would meet in November.

(g) Support Group

Cllr Littlewood had informed the Council by correspondence that the Support Group had helped to raise awareness of the change in days for highways work, and had responded to a leak in the Village Hall and an escaped snake.

(h) Sustainability

Cllr Whelan reported that a number of topics had been identified with regards to sustainability and suggested that a working group may be required. The opportunity to tie into the Neighbourhood Plan would be considered. Cllr Whelan noted that volunteers would be needed to join the new working group.

3. Open Spaces

(a) Guilden Sutton Greenspace

Nothing further.

(b) Wildflower Garden

The Clerk noted that the revised lease was still outstanding. The Clerk would try to progress with CWAC.

(c) Old School Field

The Clerk reported that a Contractor had been identified to inspect the condition of the wall and gates and it was hoped this work would be carried out within the next week.

A member of the public had offered to remove the damaged football nets.

(d) Section 106 monies

Cllr Whelan noted that the drainage system on the proposed site was historic but a meeting with United Utilities had been cancelled at short notice. Potential plans had been discussed with prospective contractors and illustrations were circulated.

(e) Dog fouling

It was noted that an increase in dog fouling had correlated with the return of the Primary School. It was agreed that The Clerk would write to the primary school to see if attention could be drawn to this in a future newsletter.

4. Transport and Highways

(a) Public Transport

Cllr Ringstead reported that further requests for information had been received. A draft questionnaire had been obtained from Cheshire Community Action/

It was reported that CWAC had introduced a pilot scheme called iTravel for on demand public transport, but Guilden Sutton was not included.

Cllr Ringstead noted that the outcomes of the survey would inform next steps which could include community-based transport or an improved public bus service.

(b) Footpath Station Lane

It was proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the Council would support the recommendation to progress the installation of a permissive footpath from The Stables junction with Station Lane to Footpath 7.

(c) Community Speedwatch

Cllr Littlewood had circulated the new guidelines and was waiting for a response from members. Cllr Ringstead noted that there may be additional risks with regards darker mornings and evenings from the end of October.

(d) Grit Box

It was reported that Cllr Littlewood would contact the Community Association. It was noted that the executive meeting of the Community Association would be held next week.

The Clerk clarified that there had been a misunderstanding at the previous meeting and that the Community Association had not sourced materials for the construction of the box. The minutes of the meeting were not amended as they were an accurate reflection of what had been discussed.

(e) A55

The Clerk reported having contacted the contractor to pass on thanks from Councillors.

5. Planning

(a) New applications:

23/02727/FUL	Holly Lodge Belle Vue Lane Demolition of existing conservatory. Porch extension, first floor side extension and single storey rear extension. Dormers to front and rear and render (re-submission of 22/04078/FUL)	3 October RW/DH No Objections
23/02804/TPO	Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School Ash (T8) - Remove crown to form pollard in order to make safe. The decay fungus <i>Inonotus hispidus</i> (Shaggy polypore) was present in the main fork and with this type of fungus present there is always a risk that the tree will fail.	9 October 2023 DH/AD

(b) Awaiting Decision:

23/01730/FUL	Land At Belle Vue Lane Erection of detached bungalow with associated landscaping works	OBJECTION
23/00017/ENF	Tile Farm, Wicker Lane Without planning permission a material change of use of the Land from agricultural use to a mixed use of agriculture and MX Motorcross/Quad bike use and Clay Pigeon Shooting use ["the Unauthorised Development"].	OBJECTION
23/02244/FUL	Newhall Rise School Lane First floor side extension to create new bedroom and stairwell, single storey front extensions, side porch extension to include new canopy. window alterations and replacement/new windows, creation of first floor side balcony, replacement of existing rear balcony. Partial replacement roof to include solar panels and rooflights, cladding to all external elevations (ground and first floor).	NO OBJECTION
23/02270/FUL	3 Wood Croft Demolition of the existing conservatory, erection of	NO OBJECTION

	single storey side extension, alterations to existing openings	
--	--	--

(c) Decision Notices:

There were no new decision notices.

(d) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Paterson reported that a further request for dates had been circulated.

6. Village Green

A request had been received for funding for plants for the planters at the noticeboard and nearby bicycle. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed that the Council would reimburse costs up to £30.

In response to an enquiry the Clerk explained that the 'Village Green' budget heading had been used for many years, but prior to 2021 the breakdown of the budget had not been published in the minutes of meetings, so this may not have been obvious to members of the public.

It was noted that the Council supports the maintenance of the Hare Lane Village Green and a number of other open public spaces in the area, and this budget heading reflected the forecast spending in these areas.

It was further noted that the detailed budget does not indicate an assignment of funds to a particular project or item of expenditure – but is an indication of the Council's anticipated expenditure in particular areas. It was noted that regardless of the budget, all proposed items of expenditure require the Council's agreement prior to being incurred.

7. Finance

(a) Income:

None

(b) Payments:

M Roberts (Website)	£8.40	(inc. £1.40 VAT)
M Roberts (Phone Bill)	£15.10	(inc. £2.51 VAT)
M Roberts (Salary)	At agreed rate	(no VAT)
R Ringstead (Salary)	At agreed rate	(no VAT)
M Roberts (Poppies)	£85.00	(inc. £14.17 VAT)
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Lengthsman)	£234.00	(inc. £39.00 VAT)
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Grounds Maint)	£240.00	(inc. £40.00 VAT)
Autela Payroll Services (Payroll)	£54.58	(inc. £9.10 VAT)
Playing Field Owner 1	£80.00	(no VAT)
Playing Field Owner 2	£80.00	(no VAT)
R Whelan (Drainage Searches)	£22.34	(inc. £3.72 VAT)
Men In Sheds (Noticeboard Refurbishment)	£500.00	(no VAT)
HMRC (Payroll)	£384.40	(no VAT)
M Roberts (Zoom)	£15.59	(inc. £2.60 VAT)
Deva Print (Newsletter)	£65.00	(no VAT)

(c) Balances:

Co-Operative Current Account	£10,664.78
Co-Operative Deposit Account	£70,431.74
Scottish Widows Business Fund 1	£19,556.84
Scottish Widows Business Fund 2	£4,254.90

It was proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Ringstead and agreed that the above payments be made and the financial information as above be agreed. The Clerk would process payments and Cllr Paterson would authorise.

8. Grounds Maintenance

(a) Hare Lane Village Green

The Clerk reported that the S115e application had been due to progress to public consultation, but it did not appear that this had happened. The Clerk would make relevant enquiries with CWAC.

9. Primary School

Cllr Hughes reported that school had resumed in September. It was agreed that The Clerk would thank PCSO Bailey for her attendance to support responsible parking and would ask that she continued to do so when available. Cllr Davis reported that a barbecue had been held.

10. Remembrance Sunday – 12th November

Cllr Hughes reminded Councillors that it was traditional to contribute £2 per member for the Council's wreath. Cllr Paterson noted that the poppies had been obtained but volunteers were now needed to display them. The Clerk had obtained new poppies and Mr Moulton had provided the dates on which they should be displayed, which Cllr Paterson would circulate to volunteers.

The Clerk reported that the cost of road closure would be £160.

11. Defibrillators

The Clerk reported having received new defibrillator pads sooner than anticipated, having been warned of delays due to the shortage of electrical components. These had been installed and records updated.

12. Members Information

Cllr Ringstead noted that reports of Parish Councils being unable to contact CWAC officers should be investigated further.

Cllr Ringstead noted that the lease option for a seating area had not been further progressed due to the impact on public funds.

Cllr Paterson noted that attention was needed to the Hilltop Road grassed area for which the Council had taken on responsibility.

Cllr Paterson felt that generally Cadent contractors had done a good job and asked that the Council write to thank the contractors.

Cllr Whelan noted that the associated work was due to finish next week.

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed that members of the press and public would be excluded in order that the Council discuss urgent exempt items under the Local Government Act 1972.

13. Part Two (for publication)

It was noted that a commercial premises in the Parish had been issued with an enforcement notice and separately a site visit was due to be carried out with regards to another planning enforcement issue.

The Clerk made a recommendation with regards to a HR matter.

Meeting closed at 21:12