



Guilden Sutton Green Space (GSGS) Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday 12th December 2018

Attendees: Sarah Jessop (chair), Brian Lewin, Derek Hughes, Tony Fisher
Amy Edwards, Matthew Jessop (Secretary)

Apologies: Angela West, Alan Davis, Jackie Tait

Note: These Minutes are a summary of the discussions that took place. Actions are detailed in a separate document.

1. Structure & Constitution

All documents for 'Guilden Sutton Green Space' are with 'Companies House' and confirmed as logged in their system for processing.

On receipt of company registered number a bank account (preferably with a more ethical establishment e.g. Co-operative Bank) will then be opened and papers filed with HMRC for Charitable Status.

Initial three directors are to be: Sarah Jessop, Derek Hughes and Tony Fisher.

2. Parish Council (PC): Update & Next Steps

The results of the Launch event were shared with the Parish Council at their monthly meeting on the 5th December. Two options to financially support GSGS were put to Parish Council, that they:

1. donate funds direct to GSGS to support the purchase of land
2. enter into a 'joint purchase' agreement with GSGS with them purchasing 2 acres in their own name and GSGS purchasing the balance

It was also stressed to at the meeting that a decision was needed from them in the near future.

The Parish Council were very positive about the 2nd option, voted to confirm that it was their preferred option and gave they impression that they would like to purchase 2 acres of land. However the outcome of the discussion somewhat unclear, so we await the draft minutes to confirm this. They do seem minded to undertake a



further village consultation process, in their own name, before making a decision to commit funds.

A strong view was made by at least one councillor that they already had a mandate to make the decision and that they had wanted to buy land for many years and hence cautioned that they should be careful not to miss the opportunity now that it was available.

GSGS will continue to work with the Parish Council, and have offered to help with any consultation process (e.g. by sharing their consultation information on our web site or through our mailing list).

The issue of the Guilden Sutton Parish Council Precept level was discussed – this having been raised independently at the Parish Council meeting. The Precept level for Guilden Sutton (the figure the Parish Council set to add to the council tax, for their own use) was set at £27.14 per household (Band D) in 2018/19 and was substantially below the level set for Mickle Trafford (£62.07), Waverton (£53.30), and Christleton (£46.00). Given around 650 houses in Guilden Sutton this difference in levels represents a lost potential income to the Parish Council of £12,250 to £22,700. It was agreed that GSGS would consider this issue further and possibly bring it up at the next Parish Council meeting.

3. Community Association & Other Village Groups

There are no developments with the Community Association although they continue to offer helpful practical support e.g. use of hall, communication to their users and members.

4. CWAC

A map of the CWAC owned 'Green Spaces' around the Parish has been obtained, and a meeting has been arranged with CWAC's Sarah Dobbins from the Localities team, early in January to discuss what opportunities this may offer GSGS and how we can work together.

5. Land

No significant further discussions have taken place with either land-owner.

It was agreed that GSGS would make an application to register the existing playing fields as an 'Asset of Community value'.

6. Finance & Funding

A letter to request funding has been written and will be sent to local businesses in the coming week.

It was agreed that formal accounts for GSGS should now be set up – given the impending company and then charitable status.



It was agreed that the various land vendors would be approached again to progress towards making an offer for the land.

Additionally GSGS would also re-engage with the Mersey Forest, to revalidate their proposal.

To allow Section 106 money to be released CWAC need to be able to see that the entire project is funded. As such it was agreed that 'the project' at this stage would be to purchase ½ of one of the available land areas (i.e. approx. 4 acres) which could then be funded completely (subject to Parish Council confirmation of 'their' purchase of 2 acres) through a mix of Section 106, Parish Council and Mersey Forest Funding). This would then allow the entire Section 106 funding to be released.

A second project will continue to be progressed alongside the 1st project, to fund the purchase of the remainder of the land.

The 'Public Works Loan Board' will be investigated as a potential source of funding via the Parish Council together with the possibility of raising funds via a social investment provider.

7. Future Events / Dates

A village social (and possibly fund-raiser) remains proposed for early in the New Year – details to be agreed.

Matthew Jessop

15.12.18