

**Minutes of Guilden Morden Annual Parish Meeting on  
Monday 20 February 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

**Present:** 66 parishioners including council members and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Joe Holroyd presided.

**1 Footway and Street lighting**

It was noted that due to the ‘capping’ SCDC had decided to turn of all its footway lights unless the parish councils took over responsibility for both running and maintenance costs; approximately £35 per light at an approximate cost of 4.5p per week per home. Following consideration of a plan showing the location of the lights currently run and maintained by both SCDC & CCC, a fact sheet on street lighting/footway lighting and an explanation of the background and the rules and regulations of the situation parishioners put forward their views and sought clarification.

Concerns were expressed about light pollution in villages, at the issue of capping the District Council, both the District Council’s and also the Governments part in this, the implications for rural communities, that the additional payment from the parish precept for the SCDC lights would be the “thin end of the wedge” and that in subsequent years other essential service provision would become an “extra” funded from the parish precept. Letters from residents opposed to the parish council paying and suggesting that all the lights were turned off was also considered in the residents’ absence.

Consideration was given to the most economic use /provision of lights and to suggestions for alternatives for example from solar or a renewable energy source.

Following a vote (55 in favour) the meeting resolved to ask the Parish Council to seriously consider the recommendation that the lights presently operating in Guilden Morden should be retained and that the Parish Council should endeavour to ensure that the utility provision should be developed upon the most efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly lines

**2 Village Parking**

As background it was noted that the Parish Council had no authority to designate where people should or should not park on the highway as that power rested with the County Council and that the County was not supportive of restricted parking areas nor yellow lines or ‘No Parking’ signs in the village. The issue had therefore to be resolved for the community by the community and good communication, common sense and good will should be applied to each problem as it arose. The Parish Council had sought to raise awareness of some problems both in Gamut and by writing to whole streets. Difficulties encountered by parishioners without off street parking on their property were noted.

Concern was expressed at parking in several streets and areas in the village for example, Church Street, Silver Street and in Trap Road outside the Edward vii public house. It was noted that whilst there was general support for the wide pavement area adjacent to the war memorial alleviating parking problems in Church Street CCC Highway Division had stated that this area was designated as a pavement and that the Police could prosecute if vehicle were seen there. The area adjacent to the Edward vii and the village hall was designated highway and therefore suitable for off road parking.

It was noted that the Community Beat Officer had been visiting the village and had already issued some parking tickets.

**3 Quality Council Status**

The Chairman was pleased to announce to the meeting that The Parish Council had achieved accreditation as a Quality Council. The advantages of the accreditation was that the residents could be assured that the processes and procedures that the Parish Council used would be correct and that all business would be carried out using best practices. The chairman paid tribute to the previous Council for starting the process and also thanked the clerk for her support.

The meeting applauded the announcement.

**4 Closure of the Meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_(Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)