

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE  
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: R TAPLIN (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillors: G CAMPBELL; A HOOKER; D KING; Ms J MACLEOD; P MALLEY; Mrs M RADFORD; D UNDERWOOD; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON; Mrs S WORTHINGTON; J YOUNG

Town Clerk: Mrs M CRAMPTON  
Mace Bearer: Mr M WILLIAMS

No members of the public were in attendance

**ACTION**

**17/142 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

CLLR CONBOY (MAYOR): Representing the Town Council in Szentendre; CLLR McINNES: unwell; CLLR SPOWART: family illness; CLLR VANE PERCY: previous engagement; CLLR MORGAN: unwell.

**17/143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

CLLR G WILSON (who works for the Environment Agency) confirmed he would not contribute to the discussion on the Mill Steps, CLLR S WILSON as wife of an EA employee also confirmed she would not contribute to the discussion; CLLR MALLEY: planning applications for 17 East Chadley Lane and 7 London Road.

**17/144 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17 August 2017 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

**17/145 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

The draw for the 800 club took place.

**17/146 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THE DEPUTY MAYOR reported that the new Union Flag had been purchased and had been flying for the past week. He confirmed he would be following up with designs for a Town Council flag and also flags for the countries with which we are twinned.

Cllr Taplin

THE DEPUTY MAYOR advised that the unveiling of the memorial to the Stirling Bomber crew had taken place and representatives of the families of the 8 crew aboard the aircraft had attended the event. The Town Council acknowledged the huge efforts Roger Leivers had gone to, to arrange the whole event.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR reminded all Cllrs that the Civic Service would take place on 8 October, and the Mayor's Civic Dinner would take place on 14 October.

All Cllrs

THE DEPUTY MAYOR confirmed that stalls for the Christmas Market on 1 December were now available. Anyone wanting a stall should contact the Town Office or CLLR CONBOY.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR reported that following vandalism of the bollards at Judith's Field, replacements would be installed as soon as possible. Images captured on the CCTV would be passed to the Police.

**17/147 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The matter of repairs to the boundary wall between the Non-Conformist Burial Ground and school land had not been resolved. CLLR G WILSON and CLLR S WORTHINGTON would discuss the next steps.

Clr G Wilson/  
Clr Worthington

The S106 agreement for Judith's Field would be triggered on occupation of the 100<sup>th</sup> house on the Roman's Edge development. Town Clerk would write to HDC confirming 100 houses were occupied and would ask for an update on the current position.

Town Clerk

### **17/148 CORRESPONDENCE**

The list of correspondence received was noted.

### **17/149 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 17/149 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

CLLR S WILSON reported that in the case of the first 4 applications listed, the deadline for the Town Council to submit a response had passed. CLLR S WILSON had not considered it necessary to hold an extra-ordinary Town Council meeting to discuss these applications and the Town Council's response (which would be added to the planning portal after HDC had determined the applications) would reflect the post-decision comments.

CLLR S WILSON put forward 6 more names for street names in Phase 2 of the Roman's Edge development. These were APPROVED and the Town Clerk would send the recommendations to HDC for their consideration.

Town Clerk

17.149.1 CLLR G WILSON provided an update on the HDC Local Plan. The outcome of a further consultation on proposals for any additional sites to be added to the draft Local Plan was awaited.

17.149.2 CLLR G WILSON and CLLR S WILSON had attended a meeting concerning the proposals for a Waste Recycling Centre at Hemingford Abbots. Residents of Hemingford Abbots were opposed to the proposal put forward by Mick George to build a Waste Treatment Plant. If this goes ahead, there would be several hundred lorry movements each day. CLLR G WILSON confirmed that as soon as a formal planning application had been submitted for consultation, the Town Council could formally comment, in conjunction with Hemingford Abbots.

### **17/150 POTENTIAL NEW ACCESS TO JUDITH'S FIELD**

CLLR S WILSON presented a report which was noted. CLLR S WILSON confirmed that the Trustees of Judith's Field had refused permission for the Town Council to provide an additional entrance to Judith's Field from the A1198. CLLR G WILSON had obtained information about Permissive Path Agreements, and it was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to the Trustees again to ask them to reconsider an additional entrance and the information on Permissive Paths would be forwarded with the request.

Town Clerk

### **17/151 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

CLLR G WILSON presented a report which was noted. The Independent Examiner had made some modifications to the draft which were noted and AGREED. CLLR G WILSON advised that HDC would examine the Neighbourhood Plan at the Overview & Scrutiny Panel followed by the full Cabinet and if approved, a referendum would be called for the residents of Godmanchester to vote on adopting the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed date for the Referendum, subject to HDC approval of the plan, would be 7 December. The plan would be made if more than 50% of the votes recorded, were in favour. The Town Council RESOLVED to approve the changes made by the Independent Examiner, and to put

the Neighbourhood Plan to a Referendum. It was further AGREED that a leaflet would be distributed to all households to encourage residents to vote.

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: It was RESOLVED that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.**

#### **17/152 REPORT ON POSITION REGARDING THE MILL STEPS**

Following the discussions with Mr Iain Downey (Solicitor) it was AGREED the Town Clerk would write to HDC enclosing a copy of the report from Mr Downey and the view that HDC were the owners of the site of the old mill. HDC would be asked for their comments and be asked to carry out essential maintenance to the sluice.

Town Clerk

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: It was RESOLVED that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.**

#### **17/153 PROPERTY REPORT**

CLLR CAMPBELL presented a report which was noted. CLLR CAMPBELL reported on the progress on the QES project and advised that the original Victorian timber beams had been uncovered beneath the floor screed, which was breaking up. These beams were rotten and there had been no option but to dig them out, together with the concrete beneath them. There had clearly been an impact on the overall project cost and there would be a delay in contract completion. The current prediction was a £30k overspend on the original contract sum of £279k. The conclusion of the contract could be delayed by a further 11 weeks.

As part of the condition for providing a grant towards the project, WREN were keen to have publicity for the project together with a formal re-opening of the facility once it had been completed. CLLR G CAMPBELL proposed that Dr Simon Thurley be invited to perform the ceremony and this was AGREED.

CLLR CAMPBELL reported that the finger post at the junction of West Street and Old Court Hall had been repainted. CLLR CAMPBELL confirmed that the new Town Council noticeboard would be installed at the end of September, subject to confirmation on delivery from the supplier.

#### **17/154 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS**

17/154.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 17/154.1 was APPROVED.

17/154.2 Councillors received a copy of the salary payments, Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 21 September, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation approved by the DEPUTY MAYOR.

17/154.3 The DEPUTY MAYOR confirmed the closure of the audit for the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017. The Town Clerk had circulated the comments from PKF Littlejohn which were noted.

#### **17/155 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

CLLR RADFORD presented a report which was noted. CLLR RADFORD was keen that this was an initiative set up by the Town Council and following discussion it was AGREED to set up a Steering Group to explore how Godmanchester could become a Dementia Friendly Community.

Clr Radford

## **17/156 LOCAL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT BID**

CLLR RADFORD presented a report which was noted. The Business Portfolio recommended an application be submitted for a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) which could be placed in a street where speeding had been reported. The camera could be moved (by the Town Council) to an alternative location which would help alert drivers to their speed. A contribution of £1000 would be offered as part of the LHI bid, but the Business Group advised they would consider putting the whole cost of the purchase of the MVAS into the budget for next year in case the bid was not successful. It was AGREED the Town Clerk would submit the bid for a LHI for a MVAS.

Town Clerk

### **21.12 CLLR WORTHINGTON arrived.**

## **17/157 ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

CLLR HOOKER presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED to pollard 7 willow trees on Queen's Walk at a cost of £3750 + VAT, subject to Conservation Area planning permission being granted.

CLLR HOOKER reported that following an assessment of litter bins, 4 were found to be corroded, and should be replaced from the stock of 6 currently held. A ground spike would be needed for one of the replacements at a cost of £106. Three further bins needed some attention and costs of up to £1k were AGREED.

CLLR HOOKER advised that Fergusons had quoted £210 to clear the bank of nettles from the main sluice to the lock. Fergusons had also quoted to fell and clear dead trees growing in various locations along the footpath towards the lock at a cost of £560 per day. It was AGREED to go ahead this work subject to a maximum of £1330.

Town Clerk

CLLR HOOKER reported that following the removal of bollards at Judith's Field it was necessary to take urgent action to replace them, and to provide a bollard at the entrance to the Recreation Ground from the Mill Yard Car Park. It was AGREED to purchase and install telescopic bollards x 3 at a cost of £1161 + VAT. The Town Clerk would make an order for urgent installation.

Town Clerk

**THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2017 IN THE TOWN HALL STARTING AT 7.30pm**

The meeting ended at 9.32pm

Mayor