

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL at a meeting held in the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School on the 29th July, 1982.

PRESENT Councillor Mrs. J.M. McCartney (Town Mayor);
Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway, E.P. Doherty, C.E. Dalleywater,
M.J. Hopkinson, R.T.D. Hughes, J.M. James, J.H. Lewis, Mrs. M.
Middlemiss, A.E.H. Sursham and Rev. J.P. Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. C.M. Parker,
C. Parker, C.W. Parcell and B.R. Hughes.

82/32 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 5th July, 1982 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor. It was reported that at the first meeting of the Joint Playscheme held in Godmanchester over 140 children were at the first registration.

82/33 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 13th July, 1982 were submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). Councillor Doherty drew attention to 82/17 thereof and to Condition 2 of Resolution (a) which he considered should have related to a requirement for an appropriate road surface as required by the original planning permission. Subject to the foregoing it was

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee be adopted.

82/34 PROPERTY WORKING PARTY

The Report of the meeting of the Working Party held on the 13th July 1982 was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Arising therefrom the following observations and amendments were made:
Para. 1.1. In view of the time taken by the Contractor and conflicting views about the expediency and extent of the work carried out, the final account (which was received on the 29th July, 1982) would be carefully examined.

Para. 2.1. Having regard to the known fact that some skills would be volunteered, the word "necessarily" be inserted between "not" and "be" in line 1.

Recommendation (b) to Para. 2.2. It was noted that a trap-door has been cut by members of the Senior Citizens Club.

Paragraph 4.1. Notwithstanding the historical use of the Town Hall and the fact that the Town Council has no legal right to demand the use thereof, renovation of the Queen Elizabeth School would require an alternative venue for meetings.

Para. 5.1. Godmanchester Rovers F.C. be asked to give an early indication of whether or not the club will want the use of the Recreation Ground in the forthcoming football season, and a programme of use by Godspsa Youth F.C. be requested.

Recommendation to Para. 6.1. Amend to "that the Director of Planning be consulted about the future of the site".

Whereupon, it was

Resolved

That the Report of the Property Working Party and recommendations

contained therein be received and adopted as amended.

82/35 USE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

A memorandum by the Town Clerk was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and the Town Clerk drew attention to some of the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 relating to the registration of buildings for public use. Despite the fact that the building failed to comply with requirements for public use, the Council recognised that non-use could be an invitation to vandalism. Furthermore, in advance of major repairs, it was envisaged that volunteers would overhaul the heating system, sand the floor, repair plaster and repaint, for which purposes funds were being accumulated. It was therefore agreed

- 1) that the Fire Officer be asked to indicate the minimum works required to render the Queen Elizabeth School suitable for public use in advance of the submission of plans for the major repairs; and
- 2) that the offers to undertake the aforementioned preliminary works be accepted with thanks.

With regard to the use of the School for two forthcoming events and the conclusions contained in the memorandum, it was

Resolved

1. That the use of the School for an Exhibition of Roman Remains be permitted subject to the Organisers meeting minimum safety requirements as specified by the Fire Officer free of charge; and
2. That the use of the School for the Exhibition by Huntingdonshire Art Society be granted subject to the Organisers meeting minimum safety requirements as specified by the Fire Officer and to a charge of £50 minimum.
3. That a Leisure and Amenities Committee be appointed comprising all the Members of the Council to deal further with the general issues raised concerning the provision and use of leisure facilities.

82/36 PUBLICITY

At the request of Councillor Mrs. Middlemiss the subject of the lack of publicity to Town Council affairs was considered. Reference was made to the fact that Godmanchester was still shown in the 'Hunts Post' as an adjunct of Huntingdon and to the absence of any reference in that newspaper to the first Civic Service other than under St. Mary's Church. It was observed that the Town of Godmanchester, independent of its past civic associations with Huntingdon, would take time to be realised but, in the meantime, the situation might be helped by 1) asking the 'Hunts Post' to carry a large heading for Godmanchester items separate from Huntingdon; 2) having a local correspondent for the paper who lived in Godmanchester; and 3) possibly promoting Town Council events in the Parish News.

In connection with the subject of identity, the Town Clerk reported with reference to Minute 82/10 that the Director of Transportation took the view that Town Entry signs should conform to the pattern and style recently erected on London Road, and that any more ornate sign could possibly be sited on the Green opposite the "Black Bull" public house. The Council did not concur with the foregoing views but did not proceed further ^{with the} subject.

82/37 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON CAMBRIDGE ROAD

With reference to Minute 82/27 the Town Mayor reported that the Road Safety Committee had recounted the views of the County Council and the Police, neither of whom wanted a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity described in the former Minute, but that the Road Safety Committee had endorsed the decision of the Town Council and intended to ask the County Council to give further consideration to the proposal. Councillor Doherty reported that at the Central Area Committee of the District

Council held on the 25th May, 1982, the Director of Technical Services had reported that the County Council was unlikely to place a pedestrian crossing or install amber warning lights.

82/38 ACCOUNTS

It was

Resolved

(a) that the following payments be approved:

Cambridgeshire County Council (use of School)	£2.	18
Eastern Electricity (football changing rooms)	£9.	26
J.A. Davie	£90.	17
Inland Revenue	£36.	30
Strutt Roofing Ltd. (Queen Elizabeth School)	£228.	32

(b) that the account by Eastern Electricity in the sum of £70. 00 be returned with a request that account for the cost of re-installing a meter in the Town Hall be submitted as opposed to a contribution towards the service supply.

[Signature]
Town Mayor.

REPORT of the Meeting of the PROPERTY WORKING PARTY at a meeting held on the 13th July, 1982.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. J.M. McCartney (Chairman);
Councillors B.P. Doherty, M.J. Hopkinson, R.T.D. Hughes,
J.H. Lewis and A.E.H. Sursham.

The Working Party were commissioned to give consideration to the following matters in the light of Council Minutes 81/21 and 81/22 and REPORT and/or RECOMMEND as follows:-

1.0 Town Hall

1.1 The Contractor has completed work on the ladies toilet with the exception of the replacement of floorboards; and expected to vacate the building within the current week.

2.0 List of Local Craftsmen

2.1 It should not be expected that craftsmen would undertake work for less than the "going rate" but would need to have a genuine concern for maintaining the Town Council's property.

2.2 Councillor B.P. Doherty has undertaken to produce names of craftsmen in a variety of trades to whom invitations to be included on the list will be sent.

RECOMMENDED a) that the foregoing be approved.

b) that a carpenter from the list be employed to cut a trap-door into the roof space of the Town Hall;

c) that Councillor Doherty's offer to replace roof slates be accepted with thanks.

3.0 Queen Elizabeth School

3.1. In order to make application for a grant from the Historic Buildings Council it is necessary to have a survey of the building and an estimate of the cost of works; in this connection it is

RECOMMENDED that the Architects of the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School be asked if they will be prepared to undertake the aforementioned survey.

Other matters relating to property considered by the Working Party were as follows:-

4.0 Use of the Town Hall

4.1. In the light of the Council's view that some Council Meetings should invoke more ceremonial, e.g. prayers, wearing of gowns, etc., it is considered by some councillors that the former Council Chamber of the Town Hall would lend itself better than the Queen Elizabeth School. In this connection it should be noted that the Council has no right to demand the use of the Town Hall which is held on an almost exclusive lease for thirty years with an option for a further twenty; similarly, it should be recorded that the Council does not wish to seek termination of the lease. However, and having regard to the wish to promote the best image of the Council, it is

RECOMMENDED that the Management Committee of the Senior Citizens Club be asked to consider allowing the Town Council

to use the Council Chamber of the Town Hall for meetings of the Town Council, or for those meetings when the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are gowned, on appropriate terms.

5.0 Football Pitch and Changing Rooms

5.1 Arising out of a misunderstanding over responsibility for the payment of general rates on the changing rooms, the need for terms of use has been realised and, accordingly, it is

RECOMMENDED a) that terms of use be either free of charge to the Football Club subject to the payment of general rates by the Club, or at a scale charge which will cover outgoings met by the Council;

b) that in either event an application be made for remission of rates appropriate to charitable and sporting bodies in accordance with the General Rate Act 1967.

6.0 Site off St. Anne's Lane

6.1 Informal and formal overtures have been made with regard to private use of the site of the former health centre and, having regard to the Council's stated aim to utilise the Queen Elizabeth School for community use, it is considered that the St. Anne's Lane site is redundant. Therefore, it is

RECOMMENDED that an application for outline planning permission for residential development be made with a view to disposal of the site by tender.

Use of the Queen Elizabeth School
(Memorandum by the Town Clerk)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The following is without prejudice to the decisions taken and to be taken with respect to the repair and refurbishment of the School.
- 1.2 Use of the Queen Elizabeth School, if it is to be extended to widest community use, falls within Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1925. Although legislation is now quite old, Regulations can be and have been made to take account of changing circumstances. Part IV of the P.H. Act deals with, inter alia, buildings to which the public have access and, although it could be said that the intention was to cover large places of entertainment, nevertheless, public and village halls also fall within the provisions. Basically, no building to which general public access is available can be so used until it has been approved by the appropriate authority.
- 1.3 In Cambridgeshire, the Fire and Rescue Service are responsible for inspection and stipulation of conditions of use.
- 1.4 Other forms of licence are required for Music and Dancing; and Performing Rights.

2.0 Community Use of the School

- 2.1 When the Town Council indicated its aims for community use of the building, I communicated with the Fire Officer who indicated that, generally, the building would not be approved in its current state. It follows that any plans for repairs, etc. must be submitted to and approved by the Fire Officer.
- 2.2 A recently discovered situation has proved embarrassing in that it was learned that extensive and detailed arrangements have been made and advertised for the use of the School during Feast Week for an Exhibition of Roman Artifacts and, as Members may have noticed, public admission will be allowed upon payment of an entrance fee. None of the foregoing has been sanctioned by the Town Council.
- 2.3 Fortunately, following an examination of the building, ^{the Fire Officer} is prepared to "condone" the use of the building on this occasion having regard to the "quiet nature" of the event. However, certain conditions need to be complied with in relation to signs above exits, unencumbered entry into and egress from the yard at the rear of the building, the number and type of extinguishers and sealing off a dangerous access.
- 2.4 All of these prerequisites have been referred to one of the parties associated with the Exhibition and they will be met.
- 2.5 An earlier enquiry with regard to the use of the School for an Art Exhibition in September was met with the response that the building did not meet legal requirements for public use; in the circumstances its use could not be offered. The Fire Officer is prepared to "condone" this Exhibition also, subject to the same conditions.
- 2.6 No carte blanche is given for general use by organisations.

3.0 Private Use of the Queen Elizabeth School

- 3.1 The foregoing does not apply in the same way to other forms of use, such as by the Executive Committee of the Friends or by Sub-Committees of the Town Council. An element of doubt must hang over meetings of the Council, as the public must be free to attend!

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The question of control of use of the building must be considered.
- 4.2 The interest of the Council's Insurers must be noted with respect to all permitted use of the premises.
- 4.3 The Organisers of the proposed Art Exhibition could be allowed use of the premises on terms to include the items referred to in paragraph 2.3 above.
- 4.4 A general indemnity could be included in the terms of use.
- 4.5 The use of the premises will attract the payment of general rates.
- 4.6 The question of charges has to be considered.