

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL at a meeting held in the Queen Elizabeth School on Thursday the 26th August, 1982.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Dalleywater,  
M.J. Hopkinson, C. Parker, Mrs. C.E. Parker and C.W. Parcell.

82/39 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th July, 1982 were approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings subject to it being noted that Councillor B.R. Walsh and not Councillor R.T.D. Hughes had submitted apologies for absence and that Councillor C.W. Parcell had been present.

In connection with Minute 82/34 (Use of the Town Hall by the Town Council) the response of the Senior Citizens Club was read which stated that, as the Town Hall was in constant use in the evening as well as during the day, it was not possible to share its use with the Town Council. Members of the Town Council found it difficult to accept the response and reconcile it with the Council's declared intentions to foster a spirit of co-operation; furthermore, having regard to their intention to incur further considerable expense on structural repairs. Notwithstanding that some Members considered that there was no profit in pursuing the matter, it was moved and seconded

that further consideration of the subject be deferred for six months and in the meantime advice be obtained through the Local Councils' Association with regard to a possible challenge to the validity of the lease.

Upon its being put to the meeting, the proposition was declared LOST.

It was further moved and seconded

that the Senior Citizens' Club be informed of the Council's regret at their decision and of the further considerable expense expected to be incurred on the structure of the building

Upon its being put to the meeting, the proposition was declared ~~CARRIED~~.

In connection with Minute 82/35 (Use of the Queen Elizabeth School) it was agreed 1) that the Minute should indicate that the offer referred to in paragraph 2 was made by the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School, and 2) notwithstanding the original intention to approach the Fire Officer in association with the Architect Members of the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School, that a formal request be made for the measures necessary to be taken to render the School suitable for public use.

82/40 LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee reported verbally on the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held immediately prior to the Council meeting at which the following subjects had been considered:

- a) a proposal that part of the space occupied by the football changing rooms, or adjacent thereto, be disposed of to facilitate a private access to the Cottage at Island Hall, wherein it was recommended

that the Council do not agree in principle and that the request be refused

- b) Use of the football pitch for Season 1982/83;
- c) Vandalism to the Jubilee Hut;
- d) Repairs to Recreation Ground Play Equipment, wherein it was recommended

- i. that the offer of Mr. P. Heseltine to undertake regular inspections of the playground equipment be gratefully accepted, and
- ii. that Messrs. Wicksteed be employed to undertake the necessary repairs to the playground equipment.

Discussion ensued, following which it was

Resolved

that the foregoing report be received and that the Recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

#### 82/41 HUNTINGDON AREA DISTRICT PLAN

Councillor Lewis introduced a discussion on the extent to which the proposals in the Huntingdon Area District Plan provided for additional infrastructure such as shopping facilities and schools, parking and the traffic demands likely to be imposed by an additional 1,000 dwellings in Godmanchester. Similarly, the provision for industry and improvements in leisure facilities were questioned. It was considered that the moment was opportune to highlight inadequacies and shortfalls and to examine likely problems. The Town Clerk reported that it was anticipated that the Draft Plan would be published for public consultation in October this year and, thereafter, Planning Officers would be prepared to discuss the content with the Town Council. Members concurred that it was appropriate to look ahead and, where necessary - as in the case of leisure facilities - to precept for long term needs. It was agreed that the whole subject should be discussed further when the Draft Huntingdon Area Plan was published.

#### 82/42 STREET SWEEPING AND WEEDING

A discussion was introduced by Councillor Lewis, whose curiosity other Members shared with regard to the frequency of street sweeping, particularly by the mechanical sweeper. Another cause of concern was the weeds growing along the pavements and on property owned by the local authorities, including the Mill Yard car park. However, it appeared that some areas were swept more regularly than others - a fact confirmed by Councillor Doherty by reference to information recently given at a meeting of the District Council Central Area Committee. Thereupon, it was

- Resolved
- 1) that strong representations be made to the Director of Technical Services about the unsatisfactory and irregular street sweeping and the overgrowth of weeds on Council property;
  - 2) that publication of street sweeping schedules be requested so that residents might anticipate and arrange to remove parked vehicles from the highway, and
  - 3) that the District Council be reminded that much of the major highway in Godmanchester lies in an area of outstanding architectural merit.

#### 82/43 APPOINTMENT OF MACE BEARER

The Town Mayor drew attention to the ancient office of Mace Bearer and reported an offer by an eminently suitable person to undertake the duties in an honorary capacity. Some of the occasions on which it would be appropriate for the Mace Bearer to be present were recounted and Members generally concurred that the person concerned would have little difficulty in learning information about traditional duties; and would probably add personal touches to the dignity of occasions, whereupon, it was

Resolved

that the offer of Dr. J. Middlemiss be warmly accepted and that he be appointed to the honorary office of Mace Bearer.

82/44 FOULING OF FOOTWAYS AND VERGES BY DOGS

In a discussion introduced by Councillor Mrs. E. Middlemiss, the Council agreed that any efforts which would deter fouling of footpaths and grass verges by dogs should be pursued. The Town Clerk drew attention to the appropriate Byelaw by which prosecutions could be brought through the Police or the District Environmental Health Department, although it was recognised that the area which most needed to be protected (where the ducks collected adjacent to the seats on the Causeway) was outside the terms of the Byelaw. However, the Town Council

Resolved

that the District Council be requested to arrange for suitable notices to be placed on lamp posts throughout the town in an endeavour to curtail the nuisance of fouling by dogs.

82/45 ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk submitted details of accounts for payment and reported with respect to Minute 82/34 concerning the account of B.B. Preservation Ltd. who had requested at least a part payment, notwithstanding that the final account had not been completely checked. It was

Resolved

that the following payments be made

Eastern Electricity (football changing rooms)	£8. 58
J.A. Davie	£87. 32
Inland Revenue	£36.30
Godmanchester St. Mary's Men's Group	£262.50
B.B. Preservation Ltd.	95% of £3,942

*J. McCarty*

Town Mayor