

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester on the 20th January, 1983

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors Mr. and Mrs. Parker and B.R. Walsh.

82/93 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December, 1982 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor. Arising therefrom the following observations and information were noted:

- i) Minute 82/83(i): the river bank adjacent to the tow path was continuing to collapse; the matter to be referred to the A.W.A. Rivers Division;
- ii) Minute 82/83(ii): inspection of fire extinguishers by the end of January;
- iii) Minute 82/83(v): the grant would be held in the Hinchingsbrooke School Account: town councillors were considered to be as aware as schoolteachers of pupils who could benefit from the grant - the School or the Town Clerk to be informed accordingly;
- iv) Minute 82/83(vi): preliminary inspection by the County Council had revealed possible incompatibility between the coats of paint and/or sealing material. The specification of repairs and materials have been made available to the County Council.
- v) Minute 82/88: Model Standing Orders were distributed to Members present and would be forwarded to those not present. The subject would appear on the Agenda of the next meeting along with the Review of the Committee Structure.
- vi) Minute 82/89: Letter from the Director of Transportation on the subject of Restricted Roads Order for the length of London Road from Earning Street to a point just short of Roman Way was submitted.

Resolved.- that a formal objection be made to the proposed order.

- vii) Minute 82/92: The majority of the sum of £29.92 would be credited by Huntingdon District Council if paint stripper returned.

82/94 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 16th December, 1982 and 6th January, 1983 were submitted (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book).

Resolved.- that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee be received and adopted.

It was reported that the alterations and extension to car parking for Unigate Dairies at 20 Earning Street had been approved by the District Council.

82/95 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972. Section 95.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the provisions of Sections 94 and 95 Local Government Act 1972 which require any Member with a pecuniary interest in a matter coming before the Council to declare such interest at the earliest opportunity. In discussion thereon, the Town Clerk reported that by virtue of Section 97 of the Act

the District Council could remove any disability imposed by Section 94. In an endeavour to clarify the question of a pecuniary interest, the Town Clerk indicated that where a town councillor was a member of a body to which the Town Council was making a grant or, by undertaking work would relieve that body of an expense which it would otherwise need to meet through members' fees or subscriptions, it could be held that there was a pecuniary interest.

Following discussion of the subject, during which it was made clear that any action in respect of any possible breach of the law could be taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions, in the interest of ensuring that the Town Council could take decisions without encumbrance, it was

Resolved.- that pursuant to Section 97 Local Government Act 1972, the District Council be requested to remove any disability imposed upon the members of the Town Council whose names are recorded in the book of Disclosures maintained by the Town Clerk in accordance with the law.

82/96 LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on the 6th January, 1983 (with the exception of Minute 82/19- Godspa Football Pitch -) were submitted. (A copy thereof is appended in the Minute Book). Following discussion, during which a proposal that Godspa Youth Football Team be charged £15 for the use of the football pitch was lost, it was

Resolved.- that the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, with the exception of Minute 82/19, be received and adopted.

(Councillor R.W. Looker declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 82/20 of the foregoing Minutes and took no part in the consideration thereof or voting thereon.

Councillor C.E. Dalleywater was not present for the proceedings of the remainder of the business).

82/97 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on the 6th January, 1983 were submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). In connection therewith the following subjects emerged and decisions were taken as described:-

a) Alterations to Queen Elizabeth School.

Preliminary drawings were presented by Councillor Sursham which endeavoured to accommodate the scope of uses envisaged. The proposals showed the public conveniences located on the Post Street frontage, backing onto those which would serve the building. It was noted that the extensions and alterations affected the Edwardian additions and left the Elizabethan structure intact. The Town Council noted that changing the location of the conveniences would open up the area between the river and the building. However, the view was that written proposals and estimated costs would need to be presented before formal observations were made by the Town Council. In the meantime, it was considered appropriate for the Architects to have consultations with statutory authorities, the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School and the Godmanchester Community Association.

b) Cleaning of the School.

The Management Committee be authorised to appoint a part-time cleaner for up to two hours a week (although initial work might take longer) and to acquire the necessary cleaning materials, the cost of which will be met by the Town Council.

c) Management Committee reports.

Quarterly reports to be submitted to the Town Council.

82/98 AGENCY ESTIMATES 1983/84.

The Town Council received and noted the estimates for agency work for the ensuing year prepared by the District Council (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and observed that had it not been for the overspending in 1981/82 by the former Huntingdon and Godmanchester Town Council there would have been a considerable balance in the current year. It was also noted that whereas £10,000 had been included in the precept for Agency, the estimate amounted to £7,540.

82/99 GODMANCHESTER ROAD SIGNS.

The Town Clerk reported upon a meeting between Councillor Lewis and officers of the District and County Councils on the 7th January 1983. Details contained in quotations obtained by Councillor Mrs. Middlemiss appeared to be acceptable, as also could be the proposal suggested earlier by Councillor Hughes, subject to confirmation of size and specification. The precise sitings would need to be agreed by the highway authority; further communication would be via the District Council as agents for the County Council. The Town Council agreed that erecting two signs of either material would provide opportunities for respective durability to be established. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that subject to the concurrence of the highway authority to the types and siting thereof, two Godmanchester signs as per the quotation obtained by Councillor Middlemiss and two as per the design and material demonstrated by Councillor Hughes be obtained and erected on the four main roads into Godmanchester.

82/100 OVERHANGING TREE - THE AVENUE.

A discussion took place with respect to a large lime tree on land belonging to Godmanchester Freemen which obstructed light to the property at 1 and 2 The Avenue. The Freemen, through their Solicitor, had given consent to the lopping of the tree but not at their expense. The residents of 1 The Avenue sought any assistance in alleviating the nuisance.

Resolved.- (a) that the problem be referred to the District and County Councils; and

(b) that the Godmanchester Freemen be requested to reconsider their view that no expense in lopping the tree should fall on them.

- 82/101 a) TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD
b) MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS IN GODMANCHESTER
c) CLOSURE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES DURING DARKNESS.

The above subjects were introduced by Councillor Lewis and discussion ensued, following which it was

Resolved. . a) that Councillor Hughes's offer to refurbish and hang the Town Council notice board be accepted with thanks:

b) that the District Council be requested to accelerate footpath repairs, notwithstanding that the County Council determined the programme of maintenance; and

c) that the vandalism at the public conveniences be viewed with deep concern and regret and that the District Council be asked to consider their closure at 10.30 p.m.

Consideration of the suggestion that ^alight be placed on the outside wall of the School to deter vandals was deferred in the light of the information contained in Minute 82/97 above.

82/102 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

Cambs. Assoc. of Local Councils	£4. 80
Hinchingsbrooke School	£100. 00
J.A. Davie	£90. 90
Inland Revenue	£36. 30

Ernest M. McCarty

Town Mayor