

MINUTES of the Meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 24th March, 1983.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.W. Parcell and B.R. Walsh and for late arrival from Councillor R.W. Looker.

PRAYERS were said by the Rev. D.H. Clarke, Vicar of Godmanchester

82/118 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th February, 1983 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

Arising therefrom observations were made as follows:

Minute 82/104. In response to a question as to her satisfaction with the content of the Minute, Councillors Mrs. Conway indicated that her only anxiety was for Members of the Town Council to act in conformity with standards contained in the National Code of Local Government Conduct, thereby retaining the respect of the people being represented.

Minute 82/112 Councillor Doherty expressed his disappointment at the low attendance at the public meeting held on the 23rd March, 1983 but indicated that useful information had emanated from the meeting which it was thought ought to be pursued. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- (a) that Councillors Doherty, Mrs. Parker and Dalleywater be authorised to investigate the observations made at the public meeting and report to a future meeting of the Town Council.

(b) that the subject of EPIC be included in the items for the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting for the purposes of receiving a report from the Councillors named in (a) above.

Minute 82/114. That the Town Mayor would formally receive the Long Distance Riders at Bearscroft Farm on the 21st June.

Minute 82/117. That having regard to the fact that the subject had been raised without the knowledge of all the Members of the Council, the request by Councillor Mrs. Conway that the appointment of a representative on the Carnival Committee be dealt with at the next ordinary Council Meeting be acceded to.

At this point of the proceedings, the Town Mayor formally welcomed the Rev. D.H. Clarke who, it was explained, had consented to be Chaplain to the Town Mayor for the remainder of her term of office.

82/119 HUNTINGDON AREA LOCAL PLAN

Consideration was given to the draft of the Huntingdon Area Local Plan which had been approved by the District Council for the purposes of consultation. The Town Council was of the opinion that a special meeting should be held at which attention should only be given to the subject of the Huntingdon Area Local Plan and, furthermore, that a public meeting should be held to ensure that a wide range of views was able to be presented to the District Council. Whereupon, it was

Resolved.- (a) that a special meeting of the Town Council be held on Thursday the 7th April, 1983 at 7 p.m., and

(b) that a public meeting be held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 14th April, 1983 at 7 p.m.

The Town Council requested that the Director of Planning be asked to attend both meetings and, inter alia, recorded the following comments upon the Draft Plan:

- i) Notwithstanding the content of the Written Statement with respect to Education provision generally, the provision of nursery education facilities was woefully inadequate, and that Godmanchester's new school premises should be accelerated;
- ii) Inadequacies were apparent at Minchingbrooke hospital.
- iii) Traffic congestion in Post Street and The Avenue showed a grave weakness in the Town's infrastructure with severe traffic over-capacity on the two roads quoted;
- iv) Inaccuracies could be identified in Table X containing planning allocations for residential development in Godmanchester;
- v) The residential development of the The Parks should endeavour to protect the long term future of the Cricket Club and that traffic considerations should relate to the problems referred to in iii) above;
- vi) further industrial development, no longer to be sited off Cow Lane, should be located adjacent to the existing industrial units off London Road; and
- vii) the proposed use of the temporary lorry park as a "collar" car park would need to be justified.

#### 82/120 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 24th February and 10th March, 1983 were submitted, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the minutes of the meetings be received and adopted.

#### 82/121 LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on the 10th March, 1983 were submitted. In connection with Minute 82/22 thereof (Damage at the Recreation Ground) Councillor Doherty gave information with respect to conditions associated with the transfer of ownership of the Island, whereby it was held that only an access over a 4' wide right of way was given, which was to be controlled by two gates, one of which was to be permanently shut.

In connection with Minute 82/24, and in response to a question about the disposal of the St. Anne Lane site, Councillor Hopkinson affirmed that his researches had given every indication that the market was still not right to contemplate an imminent disposal.

Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that the Minutes of the meeting be received and adopted.

82/122 STANDING ORDERS.

Consideration was given to the advantages and/or disadvantages of formally adopting Standing Orders, for which purpose copies of Model Standing Orders published by the Local Councils' Association had been provided for all Members. In the discussion it was asserted, and generally agreed, that the formal adoption of Standing Orders would not necessarily affect the conduct of meetings which were largely in the control of the Town Mayor or Committee Chairman. Upon a proposition to the effect that the Town Council does not adopt Standing Orders, duly seconded, it was

Resolved.- that the Town Council does not formally adopt Standing Orders.

(At this point Councillor R.W. Looker joined the meeting).

82/123 COUNCILLORS' USE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

Further to Minute 82/108, Councillor Dalleywater introduced a discussion on the subject of the free use of the Queen Elizabeth School for Councillors' meetings with constituents. Other members supported the suggestion but an alternative view was given that such meetings should not receive ratepayers' subsidy. A further view was that the proposal should only be approved if every member of the Council were to participate in such meetings. Thereupon, it was proposed that the Queen Elizabeth School be made available for Councillors' surgeries free of charge, which was duly seconded. Upon being put to the vote, the proposal was declared LOST.

82/124 MILNER & ROBERTS, ARCHITECTS

With reference to Minute 82/109 (a), the Town Clerk reported that with the assistance of the Town Clerk of Huntingdon the records of the former Huntingdon and Godmanchester Town Council had been examined with a view to determining the extent to which any commitment existed with respect to utilising Milner & Roberts for the preparation of a scheme of repairs and alterations to the Queen Elizabeth School. Only one relevant Minute had been produced, of a decision taken at a meeting of the former authority's Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 15th January, 1980. The Minute stated "that subject to the costs of repair being satisfactory, the Council would negotiate the purchase of the Queen Elizabeth School and that renovation and improvement outlined by Messrs. Milner & Roberts be progressed". No subsequent evidence had been furnished to indicate the formal commissioning of Milner & Roberts.

Thereupon, the Town Council concluded that having regard to the passage of time since January 1980 to the 1st April, 1982 when the present Town Council came into office, there was no continuing liability to engage Milner & Roberts. In all the circumstances the Town Council

Resolved.- (a) that Messrs. David Stokes and J. Willoughby-Fletcher be engaged to undertake a scheme for the repair and alterations to the Queen Elizabeth School:

(b) that alternative designs for providing buildings suitable for the Town Council's needs and for community use be provided:

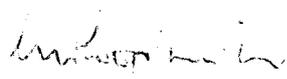
(c) that the two gentlemen be invited to talk to the Council about the foregoing and outstanding matters, including the question of fees, at the next Town Council Meeting.

82/125 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

EMA Provincial Newspapers	) advertisements of	£25. 20
RP Newspapers		) EPIC public meeting
		23rd March, 1983
Smiths Gore - allotment rent to 6th April, 1984		£120. 00
J.A. Davie		£94. 65
Inland Revenue		£37. 50
Petty Cash		£20. 00

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Town Council was reminded of a recent operation suffered by Mr. Charles McCartney from which he was making slow but sure recovery. Nevertheless, a degree of anxiety and strain had been endured by the Town Mayor. The Town Council supported with acclamation a proposal that warmest wishes both for the continued recovery of Mr. Charles McCartney and the good health of the Town Mayor be extended to them. Thanks were given to Dr. John Middlemiss for drawing the Council's attention to the matter.



Deputy Town Mayor