

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 2nd June, 1983.

PRESENT: Councillors J.H. Lewis (Deputy Town Mayor); J.M. James, M.J. Hopkinson, R.T.D. Hughes, R.W. Looker, Mrs. J.M. McCartney, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss and Mrs. C.M. Parker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E. Conway, C.E. Dalleywater, C.W. Parcell, C. Parker, A.E.H. Sursham and B.R. Walsh.

83/18 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Councillor J.H. Lewis made and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Town Mayor.

Deputy Town Mayor in the Chair

83/19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 19th May, 1983 were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Deputy Town Mayor.

Arising therefrom the following observations were noted:

83/4(a) that notwithstanding the steps being taken by the District Council to provide the footpath through Muir Housing Association development to the south of the Godspa site, the matter be kept under review.

83/6 that in approving the development of the Hosiery Mill into 89 flats, the Planning Committee had questioned whether the provision of one lift was considered to be adequate.

83/7 that in an informal conversation between the Town Clerk and the Assistant Director of Housing (Technical), it had transpired that locating new public conveniences at Mill Yard was an option for the District Council.

83/12 that the Town Mayor was arranging the meeting between representatives of the Town Council and the Civic Society.

83/13 that the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor with the Town Clerk would be discussing the procedure for maintaining a review of progress. Town Councillors were urged to communicate with Councillor Lewis within one week with respect to any specific matter.

On the subject of Dog Control Publicity, the Deputy Town Mayor would communicate with COMPASS with regard to distribution.

83/14 that Councillor Mrs. McCartney would remind the appropriate District Council technical officer of the undertaking to carry out temporary repairs to School Hill before the 9th June, 1983.

83/15 that the District Council had done a very good job with the grass cutting of the Godspa Ground in all the circumstances.

83/20 MAYORALTY

The Deputy Town Mayor introduced discussion of the manner by which Councillor Mrs. Conway had chosen to ventilate her views with respect to the election of the Town Mayor, notwithstanding that the Town Clerk had indicated clearly that all that had taken place conformed with the appropriate legislation. (The Declaration of Acceptance of Office made by the Town Mayor was here presented).

The Town Council examined the relevant Section of the Local Government Act 1972 and confirmed that, unfortunate though it had been that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office had not been made and signed at the Annual Meeting, the steps taken were in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Statute. The Deputy Town Mayor reported that he had sought a respected opinion on the subject which also confirmed the conclusion now reached by the Town Council.

Members gave their reactions to the fact that Councillor Mrs. Conway had chosen to use the Press rather than the Council Chamber to state her views. Discussion concluded when it was unanimously

Resolved.- that a letter in the names of the Councillors present be sent to the two newspapers which published Mrs. Conway's letter indicating

- a) that the signed Minutes clearly support the legality of the action taken;
- b) that the statement made by Councillor Mrs. Conway was incorrect, and
- c) that the Town Mayor has the full support and confidence of the Town Council.

The Town Council further agreed that the subject would not be discussed unless Councillor Mrs. Conway requested that it appear on the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Councillor B.P. Doherty, Town Mayor, joined the meeting during the foregoing discussion and indicated that he wished the Deputy Town Mayor to remain in the Chair for the remainder of the business.

83/21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to the planning applications described hereunder when it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council APPROVE the following applications:

- a) 86HO704/83F. Re-planning of the Exhibition Public House incorporating No. 5 London Road.
- b) 86HO705/83D. Two houses, land at Corpus Christi Lane.
- c) 86HO720/83F. Adaptation for disabled person, 12 Fox Grove.

83/22 APPEAL BY REDLAND AGGREGATES LTD. AGAINST REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION TO EXCAVATE THE OSIER BEDS.

The Town Council noted that the Appeal was to be heard at the Town Hall, Huntingdon on Wednesday the 15th June 1983 at 10 a.m. and

Resolved.- that it was in the Town Council's interest to have a representative present at the Appeal and that the Town Mayor be the Town Council's representative.

83/23 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

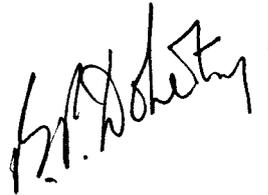
Correspondence forwarded by the Parochial Church Council with respect to a complaint by Mr. J.H. Goodman about the overgrown and untidy state of the Churchyard was considered. Members of the Town Council confirmed that the maintenance of the Churchyard had left something to be desired and

Resolved.- that an appropriate apology be sent to Mr. Goodman and that the Godmanchester St. Mary's Mens' Group be requested to ensure that the grass cutting is carried out to a satisfactory standard.

83/24 SURPLUS LAND ACQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT FOR THE HUNTINGDON AND GODMANCHESTER BYPASS.

Consideration was given to an enquiry by the Department of Transport as to whether the Town Council wished to acquire a surplus plot of land in the vicinity of the elevated trunk road at Cow Lane. The Town Council could see no use to which the land could be put and, not wishing to undertake an unnecessary maintenance expense,

Resolved. that the Department of Transport be informed that the Town Council does not wish to acquire the surplus plot of land.



Town Mayor

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL at a meeting held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 23rd June, 1983.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R.W. Looker,
C. E. Parker and B.R. Walsh.

83/25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 2nd June, 1983 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

Arisng therefrom the following were noted:

83/19 (83/4(a)) that it had been confirmed at a meeting with District Council officials attended by the Town Clerk and Mr. David Stokes that re-siting the public conveniences on Mill Yard car park appeared to be the preferred option. Mr. Stokes would therefore prepare the design of the Queen Elizabeth School ancillary buildings without regard to the location of the public conveniences.

83/19 (83/12) that the Report of the Meeting with members of the Civic Society would appear as an item on the next Agenda;

83/19 (83/14) that notwithstanding the charge to be made to the Agency Account in respect of repairs to School Hill (£330), enquiries be made as to whether the County Council would meet any proportion of the cost.

83/26 CEMETERY GATE PIERS

The Town Mayor and other Councillors gave information about the condition of the Cemetery gate piers and, although the possibility of the dangerous one falling was now averted by reason of its having been taken down, it was

Resolved.- that the District Council be asked to undertake a survey and submit a report on all the aspects of the piers with a view to their being rebuilt and gates re-hung.

83/27 SITE FOR YOUTH CLUB

With reference to Minute 83/7, the Town Mayor reported with regard to possible sites on which a purpose built youth club building could be provided, which included

- a) The Parks,
- b) Godspa Field,
- c) Field adj. Caravan Park, London Street (Butternill Meadow),
- d) St. Anne's Lane site owned by the Town Council.

In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the areas of the respective sites and to their advantages and disadvantages. It emerged that although the site off London Street was not the largest, County Youth Officers were impressed by its potential. Furthermore, it contained a building which, in the view of some, might lend itself to conversion. Notwithstanding a lack of unanimity on the suitability of the existing building, the Town Council were enthusiastic about the advantages of location and multiple accesses to the site, and thereupon

Resolved.- that in accordance with the intention to identify a site for the development of a youth club premises, the

83/28 MAYORALTY

Councillor Mrs. Conway took the opportunity to indicate her opinion that a cowardly and disgusting attack had been made upon her in her absence from the last meeting. The Town Council were reminded that Mrs. Conway had been in Germany on the 2nd June. The foregoing indication was not shared by other Members of the Council and, despite being invited to state why she had chosen to ventilate views concerning the Mayoralty in the press rather than at a Council Meeting, **no clear reason** was made apparent by Councillor Mrs. Conway. An atmosphere developed in which it became increasingly difficult to envisage a satisfactory conclusion being reached, whereupon it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved.- that the Town Council proceed to the next business.

83/29 RECREATION GROUND GOAL POSTS ETC.

The Town Clerk reported that following the removal of the goal posts by Godmanchester Rovers F.C., to whom they belonged, new posts, nets, flagpoles and flags were estimated to cost £399.12p. The subject of the use of the Recreation Ground football pitch was debated, during which its future need as a first class pitch was questioned. In response to a suggestion that such teams as Royal Oak, Godmanchester Town and Victaulic might seek to make use of the pitch, the Town Council agreed that the teams could provide goal posts, nets, etc. in the same way as Godmanchester Rovers had done. Whereupon, it was

Resolved.- that the District Council be asked to continue to mark out a football pitch which will be available for informal use only, unless firm requests for the use of the pitch are received by the 28th July, 1983.

83/30 FEAST WEEK ACTIVITIES

Information was presented with respect to activities proposed to be held on the Recreation Ground during Feast Week, which included a bridgelaying competition, a dog show and other side shows. However, having regard to uncertainty with respect to the extent of the Community Association's proposals, it was

Resolved.- that consent in principle be given subject to full information being received and to an undertaking that all ground surfaces would be satisfactorily reinstated at no cost to the Council.

83/31 RECREATION GROUND FOOTPATH

The Town Mayor reported that pursuant to enquiries made of the District Council, it was learned that the District Council had no agency liability to maintain the footpath but were prepared to lay hogging with a gravel surface between the Chinese Bridge and the sluice gate. The part further along had suffered from erosion and the Town Mayor's view was that Anglian Water should be requested to advise on the most appropriate type of revetment which would secure the footpath. Councillor Hughes drew attention to the hazards caused by mooring ropes and irons and gave the opinion that concrete blocks with mooring rings should be built into the bank. The Town Council were of the view that this should be the responsibility of Anglian Water. In discussion, the point was made that the Town Council should be receiving fishing rentals in respect of the river frontage

in their ownership. The Town Council thereupon

Resolved.- a) that information be obtained from Anglian Water with respect to the suggested revetment;

b) that Anglian Water be requested to instal concrete mooring blocks as described above for a number of moorings to be determined by negotiation; and

c) that Anglian Water and the Angling and Fish Preservation Society be informed that rentals for angling rights should be paid to the Town Council in respect of their frontage.

83/32 DUCKS ON THE CAUSEWAY

Councillor Mrs. Parker introduced discussion of the danger caused to, and hazards presented by the feeding of, ducks other than in the water or on the bank. A suggestion that drakes should be culled was not proceeded with but upon the question being put to the vote, it was

Resolved.- that subject to all necessary consents being obtained, notices be placed at each end of The Causeway stating "Please do not feed the ducks on the footpath or the carriageway".

83/33 ROAD ENTRY SIGNS

Further to Minute 83/13, the Town Clerk reported that Jay's Foundry had quoted £41.50p per sign for a design which included the Fleur de lis but excluding painting and drilling. The original quotation had been in the sum of £28 each for a less ornate design. Councillor Hughes was able to confirm that the manufacturer of the other two signs would be able to provide them on the original terms.

Resolved.- that notwithstanding the variation in the terms, an order be placed with Jay's Foundry for two road entry signs in accordance with the revised quotation.

83/34 TOWN HALL REPAIRS

The Town Council recalled that ^{it} was their intention to have external repairs to the Town Hall carried out. Accordingly, it was

Resolved.- that the Town Mayor with Councillor Sursham be authorised to obtain quotations and arrange for repairs to guttering in accordance with a specification to be prepared by Councillor Sursham.

83/35 RECREATION GROUND LAMP POSTS

Following recollection of the long-term aim that the lamp posts should be refurbished as part of the furniture of the Recreation Ground, and that no specific financial provision was budgetted in the current year, the Town Council

Resolved.- that no action be taken in respect of the lamp posts at the present time.

83/36 BARRIER TO RECREATION GROUND FROM MILL BRIDGE

In order to achieve their objective of deterring the passage of unauthorised vehicles onto the Recreation Ground, the Town Council

Resolved.- that a single hinged post-barrier be installed on the Recreation Ground and that keys thereto be held by all the appropriate authorities.

83/37 NO FOWLING OF FOOTPATHS LITERATURE

With reference to paragraph 2 of Minute 83/13, Councillor Lewis reported that Compas were not prepared to undertake the delivery of the literature; whereupon the Town Council agreed that the various uniformed organisations and the youth club be asked to give consideration to making the deliveries to every dwelling in Godmanchester. In the event of positive reponses being forthcoming, the Town Council

Resolved.- that consideration be given to making appropriate donations to the respective organisations.

83/38 PLANNING MATTERS
(a) Applications

Following consideration of the undermentioned applications, it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed of the following recommendations:-

- (a) 86H0768/83F - Dining Room and Bedroom, 7 Fairy Avenue

APPROVAL

- (b) 86H0827/83F - Sheltered C.P.U's, Tudor Road

APPROVAL

- (c) 86H0834/83LB Internal alterations and detached garage 86H0835/83F at 10 West Street

REFUSAL

- (d) 86H0848/83F - Extension to kitchen, new bathroom, study and new chimney, 33 Silver Street

APPROVAL

- (b) Godmanchester Town Scheme

In response to an invitation for a Member of the Town Council to sit on the recently approved Godmanchester Town Scheme Advisory Panel, it was

Resolved.- that Councillor Sursham to appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Town Scheme Advisory Panel.

STREET LIGHTING

83/39 The Town Mayor and the Town Clerk informed the Town Council that the District Council Technical Services Department had confirmed that the street lights capable of repair had been dealt with accordingly and that the contract for new columns and lamps had still to be let. However, there was no reason to think that the scheme would not be completed before the Autumn.

83/40 ACCOUNTS

It was Resolved.-

that the following payments be approved:

J.A. Davie	£93. 27
Inland Revenue	37. 50
Forum Print Ltd.	65. 00

Handwritten signature