

MINUTES of the meeting of the Town Council held at the Queen Elizabeth School on the 28th July, 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.M. McCartney, Mrs. M.L.
Middlemiss, C.W. Parcell, C.E. Parker, A.E.H. Sursham and
B.R. Walsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R.W. Looker and Mrs. C. Parker; and from Cllr. Hughes for anticipated late arrival.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Civic Supper.

The Town Mayor reported that he had considered the subject of a Civic Supper being held towards the end of the municipal year. The suggestion was acceptable to Councillors provided the event received no contribution from the Town Council's funds. The Town Mayor indicated he would make appropriate arrangements in March or April, 1984.

b) Insignia for Mayoress.

The Town Mayor reported that a number of people had remarked upon the absence of an insignia for the Mayoress and that he wondered whether a suitable badge or chain could be obtained through public subscription. Members were of the opinion that it would be inappropriate to utilise public subscription when it would be in order to meet any cost out of Council funds, but before taking any firm decision considered that details and cost should be obtained.

83/41 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June, 1983 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor subject to the addition of the following words at the beginning of the last sentence of the preamble to Minute 83/28 -

"Although Councillor James indicated that the Council by an error of omission had failed to pass a proposal with respect to the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office".

In connection with the list of Councillors shown present at the last meeting, Councillor Parcell indicated that he had been absent.

83/42 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT.

The Town Mayor reported on the undermentioned items shown in the first column, in connection with which the Town Council RESOLVED as shown in the second column hereunder:

a)(i) Repair to Medallion

that Thos. Fattorini Ltd.
undertake the necessary repairs;

that a valuation of the Chain
be obtained;

that a new lock be affixed to
the carrying case.

b) Planscheme - a full programme had been arranged which represented value for money.

c) Amenity seats.
25 amenity seats had been identified by Technical Services Dept, many of which required repairs amounting to an estimated cost of £550.

(i) that repairs to seats on the Recreation Ground, at the Memorial and at the corner of Chadley Lane be carried out by private contract:

(ii) that a schedule of locations of amenity seats be obtained from Technical Services Dept. with a view to systematic repair and maintenance.

d) Allotment Gates.
Both gates were inoperable.

that quotations for repair or replacement be obtained.

e) Cemetery gates.
Survey or piers and wall still to be undertaken.

f) School Hill.
A proportion of the cost of temporary repairs had been charged to the County Council.

The remainder of School Hill to be similarly repaired unless the estimated cost was more than £500: in which case further consideration to be given.

g) Town Hall repairs.
Further inspection had revealed complete decay of many of the roof slates.

i) that tenders for repairs described in the specification prepared by Clr. Sursham be obtained.

ii) Town Mayor and Clr. Sursham to be authorised to accept lowest tender.

h) Street lighting improvements.
Contract specified completion by 31st August or as soon as possible thereafter.

i) Queen Elizabeth School.
No information available further to the report in Minute 83/25.

that Mr. Stokes be asked to submit revised design at the September meeting.

83/43 11 CHADLEY LANE.

A report of the Working Party proceedings prepared by Clr. Hopkinson was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which gave a financial summary with respect to the purchase, restoration, sale and estimated shortfall in connection with 11 Chadley Lane. Members of the Town Council were still anxious to have more information on the total of interest-free loans provided by members of the Civic Society but, nevertheless,

Resolved.- that the members of the Working Party be authorised to inform the Civic Society that the Town Council will make a grant of £1,000 and, furthermore, guarantee to give consideration to making a further grant if necessary.

83/44 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. Milner & Roberts.

With reference to Minute 82/131, the Town Clerk reported that the Huntingdon Town Council had accepted that there had been a moral obligation upon the former Huntingdon & Godmanchester Town Council to meet costs incurred by Milner & Roberts and had agreed to share the account submitted in the same ratio as the balances had been divided. Accordingly, the Town Council were assured they would be reimbursed by Huntingdon Town Council. However, having regard to the major portion to be met by Huntingdon Town Council, it was

Resolved.- that Huntingdon Town Council be requested to pay the account amounting to £862. 50 and that the Town Council's share amounting to £95.85 be authorised to be paid.

83/45 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. Hunts. Art Society Exhibition.

A request for the further use of the Queen Elizabeth School by Hunts Art Society for the Annual Exhibition was submitted, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the request be acceded to subject to a payment of £50.

83/46 CIVIC PHOTOGRAPH.

Consideration was given to a suggestion that a record of the Town Council should be kept by way of an annual photograph. The Town Council readily agreed that arrangements should be made for photographs of the Council as constituted in 1982/83 and 1983/84.

Resolved.- that arrangements be made for the photographs to be taken immediately before the next Town Council meeting.

83/47 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS.

Councillor Walsh explained that other commitments would prevent his attendance at future Town Council meetings unless the calendar was altered. Accordingly, it was

Resolved.- that the next Council meeting be held on the 22nd September, 1983 and that the dates of meetings thereafter be retarded by one week.

83/48 COMMUNITY ADVISERS' TRAINING COURSES 1983/84.

The Town Mayor gave details of Community Advisers' training courses to be held in the Autumn of 1983 and Spring of 1984 and sought volunteers. Councillor C.E. Parker indicated his willingness to attend, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that Councillor C.E. Parker be nominated for the Community Advisers' course for 1983/84, and that the Town Mayor be authorised to submit the name of a second volunteer.

83/49 TOWN TWINNING

Details were given of the content of a letter from the Town Clerk of Huntingdon to the effect that invitations were being extended to 14 persons and 6 persons from Wertheim and Salon de Provence respectively to visit Huntingdon from the 9th to 16th October, 1983. The Town Mayor reported that he and a number of Godmanchester Councillors and townspeople were interested in assisting with entertainment and hospitality. Indications were given by Councillors Hopkinson, Lewis, Hughes and Mrs. Middlemiss that accommodation for visitors was likely

to be available. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that a Working Party comprising the Town Mayor, Councillors Mrs. Conway, Walsh and James be appointed to determine arrangements in connection with the twinning visit and to meet with Huntingdon Town Council Twinning Sub-Committee.

83/50 PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

The Town Mayor gave details of complaints about bad time keeping and non-arrival of public service vehicles. Other members of the Town Council described similar failings and it was

Resolved.- that the complaints be referred to the County Director of Transportation and the Eastern Counties Bus Company.

83/51 SCHOOL YEAR

The Town Council were given the opportunity to debate proposals for introducing a four-term school year. However, the consensus opinion was that the subject was more properly the responsibility of the Education Authority and parents. Whereupon the Town Council proceeded to the next business.

83/52 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Consideration was given to the undermentioned applications;

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

- i) 86H0953/83F. Extension to garage, Roman Gate Service Station. - APPROVAL
- ii) 86H1051/83F. Extension & alterations, 26 Windsor Road. - APPROVAL

(b) Alterations and extensions, 5 Silver Street.

A request by the Director of Planning for reconsideration to be given to the above application was submitted on the grounds that a thatched garage roof close to the boundary would contravene Building Regulations. The Town Council concurred with a suggestion that the applicant should seek relaxation of the appropriate Building Regulations and thereupon

Resolved.- that the previous decision to recommend REFUSAL be adhered to.

83/53 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

Huntingdon Town Council (Joint Playscheme)	£2,000. 00
Cambs. County Council (hire of school)	13. 94
J.A. Davie	94. 87
Inland Revenue	37. 50
Petty cash	20. 00

83/54 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

Resolved.- that in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the remainder of the business.

83/55 LAND OFF LONDON STREET (BUTTERMILL MEADOW)

The Town Council gave consideration to terms proposed by the District Council on which the freehold of the above land would be transferred to the Town Council. Notwithstanding the Town Council's keen desire for the land to be utilised for youth and community development, it was clear that the costs of meeting the terms of acquisition were not within their financial capabilities. Thereupon, on the assumption that a youth organisation would be able to seek a lease of the land direct from the District Council, and that the same organisation could seek grants from a number of bodies including the Town Council, it was

Resolved.- that the offer made by the District Council be declined unless the repairs to the perimeter fencing are carried out and the footpath laid to the appropriate standard.

83/56 MUIR GROUP HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Copies of a letter dated the 27th July, 1983 from Muir Group Housing Association Limited were circulated which described interest in the acquisition of the Town Council's land off St. Anne's Lane and its registration with the Housing Corporation. The Town Council had no objection to the land being registered with the Housing Corporation but generally were more concerned with assisting the District Council to fulfill the draft Huntingdon Area Plan proposals for car parking. Doubts were expressed also as to whether the Housing Association would be able to carry out the development within the near future. Having regard to the differing desires for the future development of the land, it was

Resolved.- That notwithstanding that the land off St. Anne's Lane could be developed satisfactorily for housing, Messrs. Carter-Jonas be employed to serve a Purchase Notice on the Huntingdon District Council.



Town Mayor