

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the Town Council held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 22nd September, 1983.

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor M.J. Hopkinson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following announcements:

a) Cambs. Historic Churches Trust - a volunteer was required to attend the inaugural meetings to be held in Ely on the 24th September, 1983, at 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Councillor Sursham volunteered and was warmly thanked.

b) British Heart Foundation - The Town Mayor and the Town Mayor of Huntingdon would jointly Chair a meeting to be held on the 6th October, 1983 with a view to forming a local Committee.

c) Youth Facilities in Godmanchester - A public meeting was to be arranged by County Councillor Mrs. S. Gatiss on the 20th October, 1983 at which representatives of the Education Department and the Community Council would be present. It was agreed that the Queen Elizabeth School be made freely available as the venue.

d) Exclusion of the Public - A member of the public had expressed disappointment at the exclusion of the public by the Council when the subject for which she had waited a considerable time was debated.

(Councillor Hughes here left the meeting).

e) R.A.F. Alconbury. - A Tattoo and Open Day was to be held at R.A.F. Alconbury on the 24th September, 1983

f) Functions - that as Town Mayor he had attended the following functions:-

- i) the official opening of the Godspa pavilion and grounds;
- ii) Alconbury Church re-dedication;
- iii) An Open Day at R.A.F. Wyton; and
- iv) the Battle of Britain Service at R.A.F. Brampton.

g) Safe Crossing Points - that the Governors of the Primary School sought support for their efforts to persuade the County Council that a crossing with flashing beacons was urgently needed in the vicinity of the White Hart P.H. The Town Council shared their concern and agreed that their views be conveyed to the County Council. Similar concern was expressed with respect to the crossing adjacent to the Bridge Hotel in Huntingdon.

h) Maintenance of Pavements - that the District Council bid for 198/85 would include Post Street, Cambridge Street, White Hart Lane/Anderson Crescent corner and footpath to the school across The Parks.

B.P. Doherty

83/57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th July, 1983 were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Town Mayor, subject to the following:-

- i) that Minute 83/42(g)(2) be deleted;
- ii) that the name of Mrs. Middlemiss be deleted from Minute 83/49;
- iii) that Councillor Mrs. Conway had left the meeting before the consideration of the subject of Minute 83/56 was concluded;
- iv) that Councillor Dalleywater had attended the Town Council meeting on the 23rd June, 1983.

Arising from the Minutes the following were noted and/or decided:-

a) that a verbal quotation of £80 to £120 had been given by Thos. Fattorini Ltd. for an insignia in silver gilt of oval design bearing the Fleur de Lis with the word "Godmanchester" beneath. The Town Council were undecided on the design and, having received his acquiescence, asked Councillor Sursham to prepare an alternative oval and round shaped insignia.

b) that in relation to Minute 83/42(a)(i), the net cost of repairs to the Mayoral Chain would be £500.10p.

c) that in relation to Minute 83/42(b) the Joint Playscheme had successfully completed an ambitious programme but that there were undertones that Huntingdon Town Council might want to organise an independent Playscheme for Huntingdon children alone in 1984. The subject would be considered at the next meeting.

d) that in relation to Minute 83/43(c),

- (i) the District Council to undertake or arrange for the systematic repair of the amenity seats;
- (ii) that a quotation be obtained for the supply and siting of a seat opposite to No. 25 West Street or thereabouts;
- (iii) that no action be taken at the present with respect to the placing of a seat on Post Street in the vicinity of the Vicarage.

e) that in relation to Minute 83/42(d), the Allotments Association be informed that the Town Council consider no gates are necessary.

f) that in relation to Minute 83/42(f), having regard to the length of time before it is likely that environmental improvements to School Hill will take place and in view of the need to remove hazards to pedestrians, and the likelihood of good value for the money involved, the District Council be requested to carry out the resurfacing of the remainder of School at the estimated cost of £750. 00.

g) that with respect to Minute 83/43, the Civic Society was still endeavouring to raise funds for the purchase of 11 Chadley Lane.

h)(a) that the report and the itinerary prepared by the Working Party pursuant to Minute 83/49 be approved;

(b) that both host and consort along with Town Councillors and consorts be included in the number to take lunch and/or dinner at the Black Bull;

(c) that costs of providing incidental morning coffee and afternoon tea be reimbursed; and

(d) that notwithstanding the uncertainty as to the number of

visitors, the Town Council meet the cost of providing suitable for the visitors at the Black Bull.

83/58 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

Mr. David Stokes, Architect, attended the meeting to describe the extent to which the relocation by the District Council of the public conveniences on another site in the vicinity could facilitate an increase in the storage capacity of the proposed new extensions. With the aid of a revised drawing, the Town Council gave consideration to (a) the use of the room above the Porch for storage only (although the Architect would examine the feasibility of providing stairs that would conform to the Building Regulations and render the room available for alternative use); (b) the proposed treatment to the Porch; (c) means of escape from the Community Room; (d) retention of windows in the west wall above the ridge of the proposed extension; (e) the size of the kitchen; and (f) the storage of tables and chairs.

Having regard to the foregoing, Mr. Stokes undertook to prepare a presentation drawing which would reflect the views expressed at this and previous meetings.

(Councillor Looker here left the meeting).

83/59 CHINESE BRIDGE

The Town Clerk reported information given given by a County Council bridge engineer on the outcome of the research into, and proposals for remedying, the problems of maintaining the Chinese Bridge to the effect that

- a) the originally specified paint was not fusible for external application where the atmosphere contained 15% or more moisture;
- b) that an opaque pigmented colouring was not recommended;
- c) that the structure should be sand-blasted to produce a corrugated surface;
- d) that the finish should be Acro 101, a paint film which resembled a stain and might leave some areas appearing whiter than others as it allowed the natural grain to be revealed; and
- e) subject to availability of funds, the County Council would seek to remedy the unsatisfactory situation in the current financial year.

83/60 REPAIRS TO THE TOWN HALL

With reference to Minute 83/42(g), tenders received from C & S Builders Ltd. and Conwell Construction Ltd. were opened. Discussion took place on the funding of the repairs, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that on the basis of the lower quotation, application be made for financial assistance pursuant to the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962.

83/61 GODMANCHESTER CRICKET CLUB. Application for Grant.

An application for a grant towards the cost of acquiring a motor mower by the Cricket Club was submitted. The application referred to the previous difficulty in obtaining a grant and indicated that the acquisition of a suitable mower would reduce the Town Council's liability in the maintenance of the cricket field. In the ensuing discussion reference was made to the possibility of the machine undertaking other grass cutting, the probability of abuse of the machine, liability for road tax and insurance, and the lower net cost if the machine were purchased by the Town Council, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Town Council purchase the Allan Mower desired by the Cricket Club at the quotation of £1,980.00 (gross) and donate it to the Cricket Club in lieu of a grant.

An amendment, which requested examination of the feasibility of the Town Council retaining ownership of the machine and extending its use to the Godspa site, failed.

83/62 FINANCIAL REPORT.

Councillor Walsh complained about the inadequacy of the reports on the Council finances and referred to a suggestion he had made earlier to the Town Clerk with respect to the form of financial recording and reporting which, in his view, would clearly show what he considered Councillors should know about the state of the Council's budget. The Town Clerk reiterated the view he, too, had given earlier that the suggested form was unduly complicated and unnecessary for the purposes of satisfying the District Auditor. He added that as the Council followed annual budgetting processes, it was not difficult for Councillors to determine the extent of expenditure on any specific matter from the details of payments reported and recorded at each meeting. For his part, the Town Clerk accented, and fulfilled, obligations to alert the Town Council of items which exceeded or were excluded from their annual budget. In the ensuing discussion, Councillors generally indicated that they did not seek an unduly complicated report, and

Resolved.- that a financial statement be submitted quarterly.

83/63 BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1984/85.

Councillor Walsh referred to the imminent need to prepare the budget estimate for 1984/85 and suggested the appointment of a Working Party or Committee for the purpose. The Town Mayor drew attention to, and the Council endorsed, the decision not to appoint any Committees or Working Parties if such could be avoided, and indicated that, in this instance, a special meeting of the Town Council should be held, ~~if necessary~~.

(Councillor Mrs. Conway here left the meeting)

83/64 APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT AUDITOR AND AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 1982/83.

The Town Clerk reported that the Audit Commission had appointed the District Auditor as the auditor of the Town Council's accounts. Although the appointment will be reviewed annually, it was normal for it to run for at least five years. No observations were made.

The Town Clerk went on to report that the audit of accounts for 1982/83 would commence on the 1st November, 1983 at Pathfinder House and sought views as to whether public notice should be given by newspaper advertisement or the placing of notices. The Town Council indicated that a newspaper advertisement should be placed and that a copy of the notice should be placed on the official notice board.

83/65 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved :-

| | |
|---|---------|
| J.A. Davie (August) | £88. 10 |
| Inland Revenue (August) | 37. 50 |
| Conwell Construction Ltd. - repairs to Churchward water supply pipe) | 121. 97 |
| Eastern Electricity (Queen Elizabeth School) | 15. 39 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Public Works Loan Board - St. Anne's | |
| Lane site | £667. 22 |
| J.A. Davie (September) | 93. 04 |
| Inland Revenue (September) | 37. 50 |
| Petty cash | 20. 00 |

83/66 ADJOURNMENT

Quing to the lateness of the hour (11.15 p.m.) the Town Council

Resolved.- to adjourn the meeting of the Council until
9.00 a.m. on Saturday the 24th September, 1983

UPON RESUMPTION - 24th September, 1983

Present: Councillor B.P. Doherty (Town Mayor):
Councillors J.M. James, J.H. Lewis, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss,
Mrs. J.M. McCartney, Mrs. C.M. Parker, C. Parker,
A.E.H. Sursham and B.R. Walsh.

Apologies for absence were recorded in respect of Councillors
Mrs. E.C. Conway, C. Parcell, M.J. Hopkinson, R.T.D. Hughes and
R.W. Looker.

83/67 SPEED AND VOLUME OF TRAFFIC IN WEST STREET

In sharing the concern of Councillor Mrs. Middlemiss and other
residents of West Street about the speed and volume of traffic
in West Street, the Town Council

Resolved.- that the County Council be informed of the Town
Council's support for the request contained in a petition
by residents of West Street.

83/68 STRAW AND STUBBLE BURNING

Councillors generally endorsed the complaints made during the
latter part of the summer about straw and stubble burning which,
it was recognised, added to the problems of asthma sufferers as
well as being a plague to housewives and others. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that the Council's concern be drawn to the
attention of the District Environmental Health Director and
to the Member of Parliament for Huntingdonshire.

83/69 NOXIOUS SMELLS

The Town Mayor reported that he had been inundated by telephone
calls of complaint about the noxious smell emanating from slurry
deposited upon farm fields to the south-west of the town. In an
endeavour to ensure that the nuisance was not repeated, the Town
Council agreed that a letter on the subject be sent to the
Director of Environmental Health.

83/70 ST. ANNE'S LANE SITE -
(a) Unkempt condition

Attention was drawn to the unkempt condition of the site which, it
was felt, the Town Council should seek to keep tidier. Accordingly,
it was

Handwritten signature

Resolved.- that endeavours be made to employ labour to tidy the site.

(b) Development of the Site.

The Town Clerk reported receipt of Certificate A from Muir Group Housing Association Ltd. in respect of an outline planning application for residential development. Following consideration of options for the future use of the site, it was

Resolved.- That the Comrades Club be requested to make their best offer for the freehold of the site within the next twenty-one days, and that, if possible, the question of its disposal be determined at the next meeting.

83/71 RECREATION GROUND

Consideration was given to the absence of the display of Byelaws, the general condition of the recreation ground and the state of the sandpit. Following discussion of the issues involved, it was

- Resolved.- (a) that new Model Byelaws be obtained;
(b) that the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and any other Councillors who are interested, meet the Engineer for Anglian Water (Rivers Division) on Tuesday the 27th September at 6 p.m. to enquire upon suggestions for building a revetment and dredging Queens Walk-
(c) that Compass be asked to renovate the lamp posts and generally tidy the Recreation Ground; and
(d) that the sandpit be filled in, having regard to the hazards arising from its abuse and misuse by animals.

83/72 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following consideration of the following planning applications it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council recommend the approval of the undermentioned applications:-

- (a) Alterations, 10 West Street.
- (b) Chalet House adj. 10 Orchard Way.
- (c) Garage, 17 Orchard Way
- (d) Outline for residential adj. 59 Cambridge Street.
- (e) 13 houses and garages, Pt. Phase III, Willowfields

(Councillor Sursham here left the meeting)

83/73 STREET LIGHTING COMPLAINTS

The Town Mayor drew attention to the fact that the lighting scheme appeared to have come to a standstill and to the number of standards which required servicing by the Electricity Board. The Town Council agreed that the Director of Technical Services should be made aware of the poor service being rendered in this latter respect.

83/74 PLAQUE FOR GODSPA PAVILION

Consideration was given to a suggestion that a plaque be installed in the Godspa pavilion which indicated -

This Pavilion was provided with the assistance of Godmanchester Town Council.

Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that Godspa be requested to obtain and instal a suitable plaque bearing the words shown above, and the Town Council meet the cost thereof.



Town Mayor

INITIALS

