

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the Town Council held at the Queen Elizabeth School on the 27th October, 1983

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

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J.M. James, J.H. Lewis, C.E. Dalleywater and C. Parker.

PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Rev. Denis Clark, Vicar of Godmanchester.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following announcements:

- (a) Remembrance Sunday - that the Town Council would assemble at the Queen Elizabeth School at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday the 13th November 1983 in order to process to the War Memorial. Councillor Hughes would arrange for sound amplification and for the Union Flag to fly at the Queen Elizabeth School. A kind offer made on behalf of the Senior Citizen's Club to provide refreshments in the Town Hall after the Remembrance Ceremony was accepted with warm appreciation.
- (b) Twinning Visit - that the day spent in Godmanchester had been a resounding success notwithstanding the extremely inclement weather. Thanks were due to very many people among whom were the Rev. D. Clark, Councillor Sursham, the Senior Citizen's Club, Mr. Reg. Lord, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Looker and Mr. Simon Herrtage along with Mrs. Z. Herrtage.
- (c) Godmanchester W.I. - Gift of Table - that the W.I. had offered to make a gift of a collapsible table for use in the Queen Elizabeth School. The offer was accepted with thanks and it was agreed that the Town Council should arrange the purchase and recover the cost.
- (d) Functions - that as Town Mayor he had attended the following functions: R.A.F. Wyton, R.A.F. Alconbury, SIMADS production of Ida and the A.G.M. of Godmanchester Cricket Club.
- (e) Pavements in Post Street - that agreement had been reached on the extent of pavement repairs to be undertaken in Post Street;
- (f) Buttermell Meadow - that the District Council's Leisure and Amenities Committee had agreed the dedication of Buttermell Meadow to the Town Council and that negotiations would take place on the subject of the onerous conditions attaching to the dedication.
- (g) Youth Facilities - that following the recent Public Meeting the three members of the Town Council appointed to pursue the subject would be attending a further meeting on the 17th November.
- (h) Environmental Matters - that the subjects of stubble burning, cycleways and pedestrian crossings had been referred to the District Council.
- (i) The Mace - that Dr. John Middlemiss had, at his own expense, made a new stand for the Mace which had been presented to the Town Council; similarly, he had arranged for the professional restoration of the carrying case and had affixed a lock thereto.

The Town Council asked that their appreciation of the foregoing be

INITIALS

recorded and conveyed to Dr. J.L. Middlemiss.

(j) Local History Society - that the Society had published Christmas Cards depicting scenes of Godmanchester.

83/75 MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September, 1983 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

It was moved by Councillor Walsh as an amendment, and duly seconded,

that in relation to Minute 83/62 (Financial Report) that all words following "complained" in the first line be deleted and replaced by "that the decision made by the Finance Committee on the 7th October, 1982 was not being implemented. After discussion the Town Council affirmed its intention to have a financial report along the lines and frequency suggested by Councillor Walsh"

Upon the amendment being put to the vote, the Town Mayor declared it to be LOST.

(Councillors Walsh and Mrs. Parker requested that they be recorded as having voted in favour of the foregoing amendment).

Thereupon, the motion was duly carried and the Town Mayor signed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September, 1983 as a correct record of the proceedings subject to the replacement of the word "could" in the last line by the word "should", and the deletion of the words "if necessary", in Minute 83/63 (Budget Estimate 1984/85).

Arising therefrom, Councillor Hughes indicated that whereas he was shown as having left the meeting, there was no record of his having returned. Similarly, Councillor Mrs. Parker indicated that she had left the meeting during the consideration of Minute 83/72 and had returned for the next item of business. It was noted that Councillor Hughes had returned during the consideration of Minute 83/57(b).

On other matters the following observations/decisions were made/taken:

Minute 83/57(d) that a seat had been located on the corner of Earning Street opposite the White Hart.

Minute 83/60 - that S.Standen had not been asked to quote:

Minute 83/63 - that a Special Meeting be held on Tuesday the 8th November, 1983 at 7.30 p.m.

Minute 83/71(c) that Compass, not being a source of cheap labour, would be unable to undertake the work on the Recreation Ground.

Minute 83/73 - that despite the efforts of the District Council Technical Services Department, many street lamps continued to be faulty either by failing to work or by working during the daytime. It was agreed that notwithstanding that it was recognised that the Electricity Board were at fault, further strong representations be made to the District Council.

83/76 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

(a) Presentation Drawing.

Further to Minute 83/58, copies of drawings prepared by Mr. David Stokes were presented which the Town Council agreed reflected the observations made at the last meeting. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that the drawings now presented be adopted for the purposes of pursuing planning and other statutory consents.

(b) Use for Sale of Seconds.

The Town Clerk gave details of a request for the hire of the School for the sale of "seconds". The Town Council were not agreeable that the School should be used for a commercial purpose, and

Resolved.- That the applicant be informed accordingly.

83/77 PLAYSCHHEME 1984

A Report of the Playscheme 1983 and Minutes of the Meeting of the Playscheme Joint Management Committee held on the 19th September 1983 were circulated. An opinion contained in a letter by Councillor James was read, and the content of a letter from the Town Clerk of Huntingdon was read the effect of which was to indicate that the Town Council would organise an independent Playscheme in 1984.

On the subject of 1983 Playscheme, Councillor Mrs. Parker indicated that her actions had been justified by reason of her being a mother of children attending the Playscheme and as a member of the Joint Management Committee. However, an alternative view was put that any representations should have been made through the Chairman of the Playscheme Joint Management Committee and not directly to the Organiser.

From another point of view, it was indicated that some of the activities of the Playscheme had been expensive and a constructive view should be taken of the opportunity to have a separate Playscheme for Godmanchester. Other Councillors supported this latter aspect and it was

Resolved.- that a Working Party be formed to examine the prospects of a Godmanchester Playscheme utilising the facilities now available in the town: and that the Town Mayor, Councillors R.T.D. Hughes, C.W. Parcell and Mrs. C. Parker comprise the Working Party.

83/78 GODSPA REQUEST FOR GRANT

(Councillor R.W. Looker and the Town Mayor declared pecuniary interests in the following item and left the meeting. Upon the invitation of the Council, they remained in the room.)

It was moved, seconded and

Resolved.- that Councillor M.J. Hopkinson be appointed Chairman pro tem.

A letter dated the 18th October, 1983 from the Secretary of Godspa having circulated with the Agenda, the Town Council gave consideration to the request for grant, in connection with which a letter from Councillor James on the subject was read. It was

generally agreed that more information and a deeper look into the operation of Godspa were required. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- That a Working Party comprising Councillors Hopkinson, Parcell and James (subject to his agreement) be appointed to examine all details necessary to enabling a recommendation to be made to the Town Council.

The Town Mayor hereupon resumed the Chair.

(Councillor Mrs. Parker here left the meeting).

83/79 ST. ANNE'S LANE SITE.

With reference to Minute 83/70(b), the Town Clerk reported that the District Valuer and Valuation Officer had been informed of the offer submitted by agents on behalf of the Comrades' Club, and that he had requested that the Town Council postpone taking any decision until he had had an opportunity to examine all aspects associated with the possible transaction. Thereupon, the Town Council agreed to defer further consideration of the subject until the formal opinion of the District Valuer was to hand. It was further agreed that Mr. R. Lord should be acquainted with the situation.

83/80 TWINNING VISIT

With reference to Minute 83/57(h), the Town Mayor reported that thanks to all the efforts of hosts and organisations within the town, and despite some organisational problems, a most enjoyable twinning visit had been experienced. The Working Party would look forward to making further arrangements in conjunction with Huntingdon Town Council Twinning Committee. It appeared appropriate that various artifacts associated with twinning should now be assembled in the Queen Elizabeth School. On the subject of meeting the cost of hospitality, it was reported that the Senior Citizen's Club were pleased to donate their contribution to the occasion and it appeared other individuals who provided refreshments likewise would donate their contributions. Discussion then took place with respect to meeting the costs of the luncheon and dinner at the Black Bull in the light of their earlier intentions. Whereupon, it was

Resolved.- that Town Councillors who attended the dinner be requested to make a payment of £6 - 00 and that the account be met by the Town Council.

(Councillor Mrs. Conway here left the meeting)

83/81 CIVIC INSIGNIA

Further to Minute 83/57(a) the Town Council examined a design by Thos. Fattorini Ltd. which the Company could provide in silver gilt at a net cost of £174. 50p. Councillor Sursham indicated that the design was very satisfactory from his point of view. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- That civic insignia for the Mayoress as contained in the design submitted by Thos. Fattorini & Son Ltd. be obtained for the sum of £174. 50 net.

83/82 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial statements relating to the Precept Account and the Agency Account as at the 30th September, 1983 (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) were submitted. In connection with the Agency Account and the cost of street lighting, the Town Council asked that the District Council do not pay the charge for electricity if the street lights were not working properly.

83/83 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) Extension, Layland Corner, Granary Close
- (b) Main entrance canopy, Baptist Church, Silver Street
- (c) Residential development between 62 and 63 Cambridge Street
- subject to the roof tiles being other than black asbestos slate and agreement on materials.

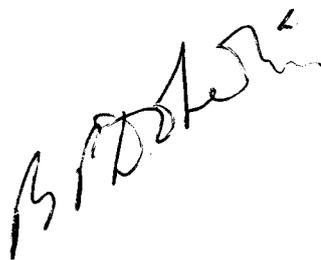
Appeal against enforcement Notice.

The Town Council concurred with the grounds on which an enforcement notice had been served on John's Freezer Centre and supported the endeavours of the District Council in the matter.

83/84 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved:-

Arthur Ibbett Ltd.	£1,980 - 00
Sharman Newspapers Ltd.	27 - 72
A.E. Sursham	189 - 63
Godmanchester St. Mary's Men's Group	275 - 00
Huntingdon Town Council	96.- 60
Thomas Fattorini Ltd.	575 - 12
J.A. Davie	94 - 76
Inland Revenue	37 - 50
R.W. Locker (wreath for War Memorial)	10 - 00
Conwell Construction Ltd. (church clock)	187 - 45



Town Mayor