

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester, on the 18th October, 1984.

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

Apologies for later arrival were presented on behalf of Councillors M.J. Hopkinson and Mrs. M. L. Middlemiss and for absence on behalf of Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway and Mrs. P. Tenten.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that it had been pleasing for him to undertake the following functions :

- i) a tour of the Roman Way Industrial Estate to conclude the visit:
- ii) a reception at R.A.F. Alconbury:
- iii) the Town Mayor's reception at Stamford:
- iv) a reception at R.A.F. Wyton, and
- v) the installation of the Dean at Ely Cathedral.

In connection with the Town Mayor's Charity, he announced that

- a) thanks to the participants, it was expected that in excess of £100 would accrue from the charity cricket match, and
- b) the Old Tyme Music Hall had realised £127 - 05 for the Charity. Particular thanks were extended to Councillor and Mrs. Hopkinson for their contributions towards the success of the latter event.

As a result of the two events, £241 had been placed in an account for which the signatories were the Town Mayor for the time being, the Town Clerk for the time being and Mr. P. Summers.

Town Councillors were reminded of the arrangements made for Remembrance Sunday. In the morning - assemble at the Town Hall by 10. 30 a.m. After the ceremony, to return to the Town Hall where members of the Senior Citizens Club would kindly serve coffee. In the evening: assemble at the Town Hall at 6.10 p.m. for the procession to the Parish Church; after the service, to receive refreshments in the Church Hall.

Advance notice was also given of arrangements being made for a Supper and Social at the Black Bull on the 2nd February, 1985, when it was hoped a further contribution to the Mayor's Charity would accrue.

84/66 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 September 1984 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor, subject to - in Minute 84/52(c) - it being noted that Councillor Mrs. J.B. Doherty was also a member of the Buttermel Project Management Committee; and - in paragraph (f) of the same Minute - the word "estimated" being replaced by the word "suggested".

In connection with Minute 84/60 it was noted that in the light of the current meeting's experience, Planning Applications and Accounts subjects might need to be placed on the Agenda immediately following the Minutes of the last meeting.

Councillor Hopkinson here joined the meeting.

Arising out of the Minutes, and with respect to the Announcements, Councillor Lewis indicated that he was the author of the letter referred to and that in his view it was an "ordinary letter". He was therefore surprised to note the terms with which it had been described.

With respect to Minute 84/57 (Cricket Ground) it was reported that the work had been carried out;

With respect to Minute 84/58 (Trees) endeavours would be made secure the delivery of the trees in 1984 rather than in January 1985;

With respect to Minute 84/61 (St. Anne's Lane, Indemnity Insurance), the letter that had appeared in the press had been written in ignorance of facts surrounding the transaction; and

With respect to Minute 84/63 (Accounts) any question of inpropriety in connection with the purchase of lab. coats was not shared by Councillors present at the earlier meeting.

84/67 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. Working Party.

Councillor Hopkinson reported that a recent meeting of the Working Party had been held and confirmed the information detailed in Minute 84/64. In addition, it was reported that the conveniences would have roof lights which would also aid ventilation. With regard to the disabled persons' toilet, the Working Party had considered three options the best of which entailed repositioning the toilet nearer to the main entrance to the building and providing a single entrance thereto from School Hill.

Councillor Hopkinson went on to indicate that the Working Party were as concerned about the external environment of the Queen Elizabeth School and had given consideration to its improvement by more disciplined parking arrangements. These could be achieved by improving the Mill Yard car parking arrangements, and - to that end - asked that responsibility therefor be given to the Working Party and relieved of the Recreation and Amenities Working Party. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- (a) that the Town Council accept the modified design requirements of Huntingdonshire District Council for the internal layout of the public conveniences whereby a central maintenance duct is provided, and the resultant reduction in internal facilities; and

(b) that the Working Party be authorised to extend their brief to include the School Hill environment and the necessary association with the Mill Yard car park.

84/68 Twinning.

The Town Mayor reported that a de-briefing meeting had been held with representatives of Huntingdon Town Council on the previous evening when a frank exchange of views and information had taken place. In the main, the Councillors present had been agreed on many of the principles associated with town twinning, notwithstanding Godmanchester Town Council's clear indication that "a poor relation" concept had developed in recent years. However, it was clear that

- (a) an historic background through the school exchanges existed;
- (b) official and special occasions necessitated a civic involvement;
- (c) residents of both towns, in addition to Councillors, should avail themselves of the opportunities presented;
- (d) Hinchingsbrooke School's relationship with Salon de Provence appeared to be loosening in preference to shorter visits to closer venues;

- (e) an education and public relations function should be undertaken by the Twinning Association; and
- (f) relationships with Wertheim were clearly more successful.

The Town Council learned that their neighbouring Town Council considered that the fairest way of apportioning financial commitments was for each authority to bear the percentage that related to the allocation contained in its budget as a percentage of its precept.

Arising out of the foregoing information and following a discussion of the principles involved, in which it emerged that there was unanimity on the principle of continuing town twinning in association with Huntingdon Town Council, it was Resolved.-

- (a) that the principle of town twinning be endorsed;
- (b) the twinning function should continue to operate through the Twinning Association but that more, and earlier, information on proposals was needed by the Town Council; and
- (c) that a sum of money be included in the precept each year notwithstanding that Councillors participating in twinning activities should bear their own expenses.

84/69 PLAYScheme 1984.

The Town Clerk reported that because of absence abroad by the Leader, Mr. Heseltine had been unable to draw parties together for the necessary de-briefing, but that he hoped to be able to do so in the near future. In the meantime, the final account for materials purchased in the current year had been submitted.

84/70 RECREATION AND AMENITY WORKING PARTY.

Councillor Doherty reported that the Working Party had met again on Monday the 15 October 1984 when consideration had been given to the items contained in the report presented at the last Town Council Meeting. In accordance with recommendations made by the Working Party, it was

- Resolved.-
- (a) that tenders be obtained for the repair of the Jubilee Hut; following the preparation of a specification;
 - (b) that meetings be sought with representatives of Anglian Water, Cambridgeshire County Council and the District Council to discuss other items contained in the aforementioned report;
 - (c) that a continuous financial commitment towards costs of improvements be accepted; and
 - (d) that Councillors Mrs. V. Harris, J.H. Lewis and L. Miller be appointed to the Working Party to be formed by the Chairman of the Governors of Godmanchester School in association with the Community Association.

84/71 PLANNING APPLICATION.

Following consideration of the undermentioned application it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council recommend as shown:

Rebuilding of present structure at 10 Cambridge Street for
Transart Ltd.

APPROVAL

INITIALS

84/72 NEW STREET NAME.

The Town Council were asked to concur with the proposal to name the street off Silver Street "Allen Farm Close", having regard to the name of the former occupier of the land. However, it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Technical Services be informed that the Town Council favour the name "Turkey Close".

84/73 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

Forum Print Ltd.	£74. 00
Nottingham Education Supplies Ltd.	£42. 51
Alexandra Workwear Ltd.	£89. 96
J. A. Davie	£121. 00
Inland Revenue	£43. 50
Petty cash	£50. 00

(Councillor J.M. James declared a pecuniary interest in one of the foregoing accounts and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.)

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that he had a personal and pecuniary interest in the account of Alexandra Workwear Ltd.)

84/74 DEDICATION OF LONDON ROAD PLAY AREA AS A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND.

(Councillor W.R. Looker declared an interest in this item and upon being invited to do so remained in the meeting, but took no part in the discussion or voting.)

The Town Clerk reported that the dedication of the Play Area was likely to be offered in order to secure its long term future as a children's playground. It was noted that the National Playing Fields Association had an interest in the Play Area and that the grass maintenance was minimal having regard to the special type of grass sown. On behalf of the Town Council, the Town Mayor thanked Councillor Looker for his generous gesture - whereupon it was

Resolved.- That the Town Council agree in principle to accept the Play Area as a deed of gift, subject to appropriate enquiries not revealing any encumbrance; and that upon its eventual transfer the transaction be suitably marked by a plaque.

84/75 NONCONFORMIST CHURCHYARD WALL.

The Town Clerk reported that it had been drawn to his attention that an area of the wall required to be rebuilt and that he had established that the Town Council were responsible for its maintenance having regard to their obligations to the closed churchyard. Whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the rebuilding be placed with a suitable contractor.

84/76 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Attention was drawn to a letter dated the 6th August 1984 on the subject from the Director of Finance, Huntingdon District Council (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) The Town Council noted its contents and agreed that there was a need for them to be accurately informed of the penny rate product when consideration was being given to the precept.

84/77 CHRISTMAS TREE ON SCHOOL HILL.

The Town Council were informed of a request for consent to the placing of a Christmas Tree on School Hill by the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School. It was understood that a 30' high tree was envisaged. Following consideration of the issues involved it was

Resolved,- that the offer by the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School to provide a Christmas Tree be gratefully accepted subject to its maximum height being 18'.

84/78 AGENDA

It was drawn to the Town Council's attention that the time was 10.53 p.m. and in the light of Minute 84/66 the two subjects would receive promotion on future agenda.



Town Mayor