

Godmanchester Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester on the 21 November, 1985.

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

Apologies for absence from the meeting were presented on behalf of Councillors Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss and P. Tenten.

It was learned that Dr. Middlemiss was about to enter hospital for an operation, whereupon the Town Council extended wishes for a speedy recovery.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that since the last meeting he and the Mayoress had been pleased to attend the Godmanchester Cricket Club Annual Dinner, the SIMADS Jubilee performance in St. Ives (in which some Godmanchester townpeople took part) and a Dog Training Club function at which donations had been presented to some organisations including the Wood Green Animal Shelter. In relation to the latter, the Town Mayor sought the views of Town Councillors with regard to a visit being paid to that organisation - with which there was general consent.

85/79 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on the 24th October and 14th November were approved as correct records of the proceedings subject to:

- Minute 73 - the reference to Minute 85/38 being amended to 85/19;
- Minute 85/73(e) a vote of thanks to Councillor Hopkinson being recorded and the replacement of the word "payment" by the word "reimbursement"; and
- Minute 85/74 - the addition of the word "Alternate" before the word "trees" in the last line of the resolution.

Arising therefrom it was noted and/or agreed:

that in relation to Minute 85/70, and after receiving information from Councillor Hughes who reported that he had researched the facts of the situation, ~~and as the grass maintenance was now satisfactory,~~ the balance of payment to the St. Mary's Men's Club (£350) be paid;

that in relation to Minute 85/72 (Accounts - British Legion) the amount of £15 had been re-imbursed to Mrs. Looker who had donated that sum to the British Legion in advance;

that in relation to Minute 85/73, Messrs. Brudenell and J.W. Barber would not be tendering ; and

that in relation to Minute 85/74, the application to fell and lop alternate trees had been made to the Planning Department; that the estimate of repairs to the Jubilee Hut was not available and should be presented at the next meeting of the Town Council.

85/80 PLANNING APPLICATION

Following consideration of the application 85/1676 - Part change of use to estate agents office, 49 Post Street - it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council recommend APPROVAL.

(Councillor Lewis requested that it be recorded that he had voted against the foregoing resolution).

85/81 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

Eastern Electricity	£11 - 62
J.A. Davie	£119 - 86
Inland Revenue	£43 - 50
Petty Cash	30 - 00
Audit Commission	50% of the

account rendered in the sum of £388 - 70 - and that an explanation be sought from the Commission for the excessive increase in the fee compared with the previous year.

Also Resolved.- that the charge to the Salvation Army for the use of the Queen Elizabeth School be remitted.

85/82 PROPOSED COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Town Mayor gave an account of the meeting of the Primary School Governors' meeting held on the 6th November, 1985 when it had emerged, inter alia -

that proposals for enlarging the school would include larger classrooms than hitherto envisaged;
that a Scheme had yet to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education;
that the proposals necessitated increased school playing areas which could only be taken from land at The Parks owned by the Church Commissioners;
that negotiations for acquisition of playing space could not take place until the Public Inquiry into the Huntingdon Area Local Plan had been held;
that the County Council had advanced no further with any possible designation of the Park Lane School as a Community School;
that notwithstanding the views of County Council officials that additional car parking provision at the School was necessary, the Governors did not consider that it should be provided by local resources;
that the School Governors were aware of the Town Council reluctance to invest resources unless and until designation of a community school had been made.

Following discussion of the foregoing, the Town Council re-affirmed their view that a firm indication of designation as a community school was a prerequisite to the committal of funds to the project and

Resolved.- that the subject be considered further in the light of any information arising out of a County Education Committee meeting to be held on the 3rd December, 1985.

85/82 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Notwithstanding the five applications for financial assistance, the Town Council did not consider that adequate publicity had

been given to their willingness to entertain applications for financial assistance from groups socially active within the community, and thereupon

Resolved.- (a) that a global sum be included in the Budget at the next meeting and

(b) that public advertisement be placed indicating that requests by appropriate groups should be received by the 31st March, 1986.

85/83 BUDGET 1986/87

In giving preliminary consideration to items for which provision should be made in the ensuing financial year's budget, the Town Council took into account the likely prospect of Godspa ceasing to be an active community facility unless financial restructuring took place and the likelihood of the Trusteeship of the Association being offered to the Town Council. In this respect, the Town Council were acquainted with the extent of outstanding loans and acknowledged that a revenue charge of perhaps £2,000 per annum ought to meet the servicing of the existing loans if the Town Council were to be offered and accepted the Trusteeship. For the purpose of obtaining detailed information Councillors B.P. Doherty, M.J. Hopkinson and J.H. Lewis were authorised to form a Working Party.

A preliminary examination of other items for which provision would need to be made in the ensuing year's budget revealed that, without prejudice to any decisions to be taken at the next meeting of the Town Council, consideration should be given to providing for Godspa, Grants, Amenity & Recreation in the sums of £2,000, £4,000 and £10,000 respectively. To that extent, and having regard to the need to provide for works to the Queen Elizabeth School, it appeared that a precept in the same rate in the £ as the current year was likely to emerge.

85/84 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to pleas contained in a letter from the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School for the Management Committee to be reconstituted as a matter of urgency: whereupon it was

Resolved.- (a) that the re-constituted School Management Committee comprise four Town Councillors and one representative from each of the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School and the Community Association;

(b) that in the event of the nominated representative of either of the Associations being unable to attend meetings, substitute members be permitted; and

(c) that Councillors Mrs. J.B. Doherty, M.J. Hopkinson, R.T.D. Hughes and J.H. Lewis be appointed to represent the Town Council with Councillor Hopkinson as Convenor.

85/85 DEVELOPMENT OFF EARNING STREET (FORMER MILK DEPOT) - LOCAL REPRESENTATIONS.

Councillor Lewis rehearsed arguments deliberated upon by the Town Council at the meeting when the decision to recommend approval to

the above planning application was taken, and explained that few people, if any, understood the policy of the District Council on the subject of amendments to planning applications. It was his view, with which Town Councillors generally agreed, that such an amendment should have been treated as a new application and advertised accordingly. Whereupon, with a view to eliminating any possible recurrence, it was

Resolved.- that the District Council be informed of the concern expressed in the manner in which the amended plans were processed and requested to institute a procedure whereby local publicity is given to this sort of situation, in order that opportunity is given for representations to be made on amendments to plans.

85/86 PROGRESS REPORT

At the request of Councillor Lewis the following information was given in respect of the undermentioned subjects:-

(a) Recreation Ground Byelaws - that as soon as the Town Clerk has prepared the new Byelaws they will be submitted to the Town Council for making prior to their submission to the Home Office for confirmation;

(b) that six new litter bins had been provided of which four had been placed in position. An account in the sum of about £500 would be received from the District Council. The Amenity and Recreation Working Party were asked to determine sites for the remaining two bins; and

(c) Advice has been taken on the subject of the lease of the Town Hall.

Town Mayor

