

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester on the 16th January, 1986

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, R.W. Looker, L. Miller, C.W. Parcell, A.E. Sursham and Mrs. P. Tenten.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, greetings and a message of peace were received from representatives of the Ba'Hai. Information was given about a meeting to be held at the George Hotel, Huntingdon on the 25th January, 1986 at which it was hoped civic representatives would attend.

The Town Mayor extended New Year greetings to the Town Council which were duly reciprocated.

85/93 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 9th December, 1985 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor, subject to -

Minute 85/90 - the deletion of the words between "that" in the first line and "it" in the fourth line;

Minute 85/91 - the insertion of the words "been led to" after the word "had" and the amendment of the word "asked" to "ask" in line seven;

Minute 85/92 - the deletion of Part (a) and the deletion of the letter (b) - despite the Town Clerk's protestations.

Minute 85/91 - the insertion of a reference to Godmanchester Angling and Fish Preservation Society's loan of £500 to Godspa (Again, on which the Town Clerk indicated he had no knowledge).

Arising therefrom it was noted and/or agreed -

Minute 85/87 (in a further reference to Minute 85/82) that the County Council as landowner and the developer were to be held responsible for the unkempt situation of the site;

Minute 85/87 (in a further reference to the proposed Community School) - that townspeople should telephone, write to and lobby County Councillors on the subject.

Minute 85/87 - (in a further reference to Minute 85/79) that further information on the repair of the Jubilee Hut would be forthcoming soon.

Minute 85/87 (in a further reference to goodwill by the Senior Citizen's Club) - that meetings for the foreseeable future would need to be held in the Town Hall.

85/94 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following consideration of the undermentioned applications, it was

Resolved.-

that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council recommend as follows:-

85/1864 - Workshop in garden, 4 Cambridge Street - APPROVAL

85/0018 - Refurbishment of 4 flats, West Street - APPROVAL

86/0030 - Relocation of 2 and retention of 4 mobile classrooms, Park Lane School - APPROVAL

85/95 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the undermentioned payments be approved -

D.P. Walsh	£447 - 23
K. Challenger	52 - 50
J.A. Davie	121 - 91
Inland Revenue	43 - 50
Petty cash	30 - 00

85/96 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL WORKING PARTY

(After learning the identity of the most competitive contractor, the Town Mayor declared an interest in the subject, vacated the Chair and left the meeting).

Councillor R.T.D. Hughes, Deputy Town Mayor thereupon took the Chair.

Councillor Hopkinson gave a report of considerations given by the Working Party to the tenders referred to in Minute 85/90 and of the extent to which reductions had been negotiated with the two lowest tenderers. In the event, the original lowest tender was the lower of the revised tenders.

Reference was also made to the funding of the project and the fact that the Working Party would continue to seek grants. In this context, application to the Carnegie Trust was noted.

The Town Council were informed of the position with regard to the need to obtain permission from an adjacent landowner for access to the School building: although the need to use adjacent land appeared to have diminished.

The Town Council were also acquainted with the fact that the building timescale might enable the funding to be spread over three financial years - which would be helpful in that an opportunity to precept for additional resources, if necessary, would be presented.

A formal statement of the Working Party's considerations in relation to the two lowest tenderers was submitted and a copy is appended in the Minute Book. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- i) that the revised tender from Conwel Construction Ltd. in the sum of £110,845 (£69,127 for the Queen Elizabeth School and £41,718 for the public toilets) be accepted subject to Huntingdonshire District Council approval of the public toilets component of the project:

ii) that the Project Manager, Headley Stokes Associates, be authorised to issue a letter of intent to Conwel Construction Ltd., and

iii) that the Working Party continue to liaise with Huntingdonshire District Council, the Project Manager and the selected tenderer.

iv) that the budget figure of £70,000 for the Scheme be approved:

v) that the Town Council's appreciation of the work undertaken by Councillor Hopkinson and the Working Party be recorded.

The Town Mayor hereupon resumed the Chair.

85/97 GODSPA

(Councillor Looker declared a pecuniary interest in this subject and left the meeting.)

A written statement and offer by W.R. Looker on behalf of the Trustees of Godspa was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the terms of which had been confirmed verbally by the Trustees' Solicitor. Prior to consideration of the offer confirmed by the written statement, Councillor Lewis explained that he would not vote on the issue if a decision were to be taken whilst he held the office of Treasurer to Godspa.

The Town Council were acquainted with information upon which the Working Party had had little time to deliberate, namely - the fact that Godspa had in the last year turned a deficit balance of £800 into a credit balance of £200 ; that a new lessee would increase income by £300 in the next financial year but that there was likely to be an hiatus in the early part of the new year.

The Town Council were given details of the options to be presented at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of Godspa (to close, to increase rents or to embark upon fundraising) and of the outstanding loans made to Godspa by Lloyds Bank Plc (£10,000), the Brewery (£5,000) Godmanchester Angling and F.P.S. (£500) and W.R. Looker (£3,500). It was noted that at least two of the creditors were apparently prepared to continue existing terms of loan if the Town Council became the residual Trustees.

Details were given of identified future capital works relating to i) security alarm system; ii) entrance roadworks; iii) car park and iv) decorating.

It was appreciated by the Working Party and the Town Council that written confirmation of all the offers made was required but, nevertheless, the continuation of a facility such as Godspa in that location was extremely desirable. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that agreement in broad principle with the continuation of Godspa be recorded and that further investigations be carried out by the Working Party into the loans, the legalities of effecting a transfer to the Town Council and the financial position of Godspa itself.

The Town Council agreed that the subject was one worthy of discussion at the Annual Town Meeting from which an indication of public support might be obtained.

85/98 RECREATION AND AMENITY WORKING PARTY

(a) Buttermel Meadow.

The Town Mayor reported that a local contractor was prepared to carry out the work of rebuilding the building on Buttermel Meadow free of charge subject to the Town Council supplying the materials.

Resolved.- that the offer be accepted subject to an estimate of the cost of materials first being provided.

(a) Right of Way to the Island.

Details of discussions with Mr. Vane-Percy were given, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that an annual licence to cover vehicular right of way and services to the Island be granted to Mr. Vane-Percy upon payment of £10 per annum.

85/99 PROPOSED DREDGING OF MILL RACE BY ANGLIAN WATER.

The Town Council were informed of the decision by the Local Planning Authority to refuse permission to fell and lop the Willow trees on the recreation Ground between the Chinese Bridge and the sluice. Following discussion of the subject, it was

Resolved.- that no appeal against the planning decision be made but that further enquiries be made with a view to securing the dredging of the Mill race.

85/100 CHANGES TO THE HUNTINGDON AREA LOCAL PLAN

Consideration was given to advertised amendments to be made to the Huntingdon Area Local ^{Plan} which would be taken into account by the Inspector at the forthcoming Public Inquiry, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that an objection be lodged against the proposal to include 21 acres off Silver Street for pre - 1991 development on the the same grounds given in the earlier objection, namely, that the Plan failed to provide means for meeting the traffic and other infrastructure problems in Godmanchester.

85/101 FOOTPATH BETWEEN EARNING STREET AND MUIR HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

Councillor Hughes drew attention to the need for artificial illumination along the 60 yards or so of footway. The Town Council concurred and

Resolved.- that the District Council be requested to provide a lamp standard in the path.

85/102 MUIR HOUSING ESTATE

Councillor Mrs. Tenten apprised the Town Council of recent outbreaks of vandalism and enquired whether the Chief Inspector of Police should attend a Town Council Meeting when the subject could be discussed further.

Resolved.- that the Chief Inspector of Police be invited to attend a Town Council Meeting.

85/103 TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES

Having learned that no valid request for an election had been

received by the Returning Officer, the Town Council

Resolved.- to submit the issue as a subject for discussion at the Annual Town Meeting with a view to the creation of interest.

The Town Council noted that individuals had indicated an interest in being appointed to fill the vacancies.

85/104 FLOODHIT HARD AREA, PARK LANE SCHOOL: PROPOSED MANAGEMENT CONSTITUTION

Copies of the proposed management constitution having ^{been} circulated with the Agenda, the Town Council generally indicated that the proposals tended to overstate the magnitude of any management responsibilities and thereupon

Resolved.- that the Town Council's view be recorded that not more than one nominated manager from any representative body was ~~to~~ on the proposed management committee.

85/105 CIVIC DINNER

The Town Mayor presented a proposal for a Dinner to be held at the Black Bull to which civic guests should be invited. The Town Council concurred with the proposal and

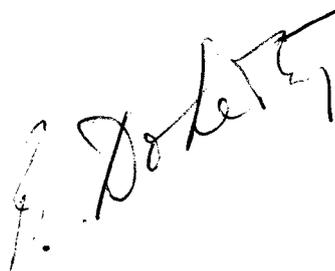
Resolved.- that the cost of civic guests be met from the Civic Fund contained within the Budget.

It was noted that the Town Mayor would inform Councillors when a date had been reserved at the Black Bull Hotel.

85/106 CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU. Request for financial aid.

Following consideration of details presented, it was

Resolved.- that no financial aid be made to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.



Town Mayor

Re: Godspa

The following is a written statement and offer dated the 9 January 1986 which has been made under the signature of R.W. Looker for the Trustees. R.W. Looker has certified that all the Trustees are agreeable to the offer made in the statement.

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"At the present moment I feel the town, which is exceptionably light on sporting amenities, would care to take over the lease of the Godspa site and building. The lease to run for 99 years.

At present the users are as follows:-

- the Jack and Jill Playgroup, who have increased their numbers;
- the Godspa Youth Football Club which this season has won two major trophies in the Eastern Counties;
- the Godmanchester Rovers who are near the top of both divisions of the Huntingdonshire League;
- the Teens Club which is the only youth club in the town in capable hands;
- the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Hotshoes BMX Club which on its own initiative has constructed one of the best tracks in the country - children coming to race on it from Derby, Leicester, Norwich, Yarmouth, Ipswich, Bedford and Cambridge; Most week-ends over 100 children participate;
- the Huntingdon Deep Sea Fishing Club who use the Club as their Headquarters.

The Huntingdon Sea Cadets Group are negotiating (to be completed by the end of the month) to provide two public buildings at a rent to Godspa of £300 a year - to be reviewed every five years; the 1985 accounts will be available.

There is also a play area the care of which does not appear to have reached the District Council.

Further, there is not (a) footpath as laid down provided to the site.

There has certainly been some adverse publicity which was most unhelpful, particularly as the Trader (Newspaper) is a major supporter of the BMX Club - providing many of their winter series.

One stipulation, and only one - the field to be known as Judith's Field. All main facilities are on site.

In no way has QUAD assisted with the drainage; this was carried out by the kindness of Chiltern Developments.

Should you wish to take this offer up, contact Mr. B. O'Loughlin of Hunnybun & Sons."

GURNER ELIZABETH SCHOOL GODMANCHESTER

Of the original 5 tenders received for this project, the lowest - at £121,468 - was from Conwel Construction Ltd. It was subsequently confirmed by them that of this sum £41,718 was for the building of the new public toilets. The balance figure of £79,750 being in excess of the original £70,000 budget set by the Town Council, the working party have been negotiating with the TWO lowest tenderers (Conwel and Sturgeon) to establish figures for reductions in the specification to bring the overall figure back to budgeted levels. As a result of this exercise, Conwel remain the lowest overall tenderer.

The Working Party have considered many ways of reducing costs without too major a detraction from the original specification. Those items now recommended for deletion, and their cost effect, are:

ORIGINAL TENDER (QE School component)	£79,750
LESS:	
1. Vitreous china sanitary ware in place of stainless steel	£ 1,695
2. Portaflek to toilet walls in lieu of tiles	£ 703
3. Omit stairs to first floor office, (but clear ground floor)	£ 1,450
4. Replace kitchen roller blind with panel type hatch	£ 500
5. Omit p.c. sum for storage cupboards	£ 1,000 *
6. Omit secondary glazing	£ 4,500 **
7. Leave out shelving to storage cupboard	£ 250
As a result of these reductions there will be a saving on preliminaries and overheads of	£ 1,000

This therefore reduces the total to	£68,652
There was however one item omitted from the detailed specification which was a new fire door, and this will ADD	£ 475

REVISED TOTAL	£69,127
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* The Friends of the QE School are being approached to see if they might consider providing this item.

** This to figure in the Working Party continued search for grant aid.

M.D. Hopkinson
for Godmanchester Town Council QE School Working Party

16th January, 1986