

## **GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2000**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs GODLEY, Town Mayor  
Councillors D COMBEN, A HOOKER, Mrs HULL,  
E KYNOCH, Mrs MOORE, R NORRIS, S SPENCER, A SURSHAM,  
G WILSON  
Town Clerk: W D BUTTERWORTH

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor K GABB, Mrs LOOKER, Mrs TYLER

#### **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 6 occasions since the last meeting. She went on to thank everyone who supported the Civic dinner and announced that the event had raised £380 for her charity.

The Mayor reminded everyone about the litter picking planned for The Causeway on 15 April. She also gave a final reminder for the Annual Town Meeting on 27 April and stressed the need for Chairs to prepare their reports.

She announced that the Civic Service would take place on 18 June and asked that Bellmans be given a provisional booking for the catering. AGREED. The Guest list would be as last year with the addition of the Church Wardens.

She reported that the Devana Park play-area had attracted some more vandalism. Two outside fence posts had been pulled off, as had a piece of the roof of the play equipment. Cllr Gabb had also reported vandalism at JF where the door to an external storage cupboard had been broken.

#### **00/026 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2000 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

#### **00/027 MATTERS ARISING**

The following matters arising from the last meeting were incomplete or required further action:

99/048(2): Town Mini-Guide – Draft expected in May.

99/082(5): Red blocks & road signs – Correspondence Item 2.

99/101: Rising damp at JF – Correspondence Item 10.

00/005: Costs of fire alarm incident at JF - Councillor SPENCER reported that he had written to the organisation concerned and that they had agreed to meet the bill in full. However, the cheque had not yet been received and he would pursue the matter.

00/005: Christmas Lights – I S Munro had removed the light bulbs as directed. He had also confirmed that the empty sockets would not rust and that any damp would dry out quickly. It was AGREED that the future style of the Christmas lights would be decided at the meeting in August 2000.

00/011 Lights near cemetery – CCC and HDC had continued to debate the issue. The Town Clerk had received an information copy of a memo between them reiterating that the high voltage lines across the A1198 prevented the positioning of the lamp standard preferred by the Town Council. Lighting near the cemetery remained an option.

00/019 Tourism documents – Councillor VANE PERCY was not present to provide an update.

00/021 Godmanchester Charities – the Clerk to the Trustees had provided input for the Bridge Magazine and had written to Mr Doherty to clarify if he wished to continue as a Trustee.

In discussion it became clear that there was considerable confusion about the status of public footpaths in the area of the cricket pitch. Councillor NORRIS volunteered to write to the footpaths officer to clarify the matter.

#### 00/028 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence listed at Appendix A was addressed. The following was agreed (the numbers refer to the Appendix serial number):

Councillor SPENCER arrived at 7.56 pm

1. The proposal to mount a telephone mast inside the church tower generated strong feelings and much discussion. It was AGREED, by a large majority, that the Town Clerk should write to the Diocesan Registry and register the Town Council's formal objection to the plan on the grounds that there was a possible health hazard to people, particularly children, in the immediate vicinity.
2. See the Environment WP report.
3. See the Environment WP report.
4. See the Environment WP report.
5. The Council sympathised with Mr Rowland's concern about the gap between his boundary hedge and the new planting on Buttermel. While it was not possible to amend the current planting contract, it was AGREED that supplementary planting would be considered later in the year.
6. The Council noted the letter of thanks from the Senior Citizens Club.

7. The Town Clerk was to advise the Twinning Association that while any visitors from the twinned towns would be made very welcome at the Godmanchester Gala Day & Picnic in the Park, it was not intended to issue formal invitations.

8. The Council noted HDC's intention to investigate the state of the roads and pavements in the Lancaster Way, Fox Grove & Rectory Gardens area. The Town Clerk was to write to Eastern Electricity about the state of the fencing around its transformer unit.

9. The Council noted the schedule for grounds maintenance submitted by the contractor.

10. The Council considered the report on the fabric of the building at Judith's Field. It was AGREED that the repairs to the defective valve and the associated check of the plumbing should be carried out immediately. Once the floor had dried out over the summer, the Property WP would recommend a programme of works to refurbish the building.

11. The Council reviewed the revised proposal from Mr Gordon-Brown for a half-size version of the Millennium structure. However, despite admiring the design it was DECIDED not to commission the work.

12. The Town Clerk reported that Mr Foren the Mace Bearer had declined the offer to join the Guild. Consequently, the Council DECIDED not to accept the invitation.

#### 00/029 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The application for £1325.25 to support the Millennium Photographic Record project was APPROVED.

The Council considered the invitation to subscribe to Update but DECIDED that it was unnecessary, as similar information was available through CALC.

The Town Clerk sought approval to buy 2 replacement litterbin liners and spare keys for the bins themselves. APPROVED.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that, following the end of financial year reconciliation, there was one outstanding bill that was well overdue and for a significant amount. The Council DECIDED that the debtor was to be informed that further use of the Town's facilities was to be denied until the bill was paid.

Councillor SPENCER announced that the annual 5-a-side youth football tournament would be held on 3 & 4 June. As all proceeds went to community funds, he asked that the normal hire charges be waived. AGREED

#### 00/030 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix C were considered. The Town Clerk was to advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

#### 00/031 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The Finance WP had not met. However, the Town Clerk was to contact CALC and seek advice about suitable long-term investments which would raise interest to cover the grounds maintenance of Devana Park

Ad Hoc (Agency). Councillor COMBEN provided a written report of the WP meeting held on 30 March. The Town Clerk had agreed to make formal weekly inspections of the 4 play-areas until a handyman could be appointed. In that regard, a new advertisement had been posted aiming to make the handyman job more attractive. As a further interim measure, Fergusons had been asked to quote for litter picking and bark raking within the play-areas. The main grounds maintenance contract with Fergusons had started on 1 April and additional quotes for herbicide treatment of flower beds had been sought.

Environment. Councillor COMBEN provided a full written report of the WP meeting that took place on 30 March. The report recommended that:

HDC be invited to install the mobile air-quality monitoring unit on the grassed area between the A14 and Cambridge Villas. AGREED

CCC be instructed to provide red patches and 30 mph roundels on the 4 approach roads to Godmanchester at a cost of £260 plus £100 traffic management fee per site. AGREED. CCC also be invited to provide yellow-backed 30 mph road signs and additional signs warning of elderly people on West Street. An advance 30 mph warning sign on the approach to West Street was also to be requested. AGREED.

HDC be asked to provide a quotation for a road sign indicating the way to the Community Swimming Pool.

Mr Bream be reimbursed for the bill of £154.16 he incurred in connection with the tree planting on Buttermel adjacent to his house. AGREED

Councillor COMBEN also reported that the mini-recycling centre at Cow lane was operational and that there was encouraging news about the public footpath round Monks Pit. The Inspector would be asked to rule on the latter issue on 12 May 2000, in the meantime the Town Clerk had written to all those who had provided evidence to thank them for their contributions.

Recreation and Amenities. Councillor SPENCER reported that the WP had met on 23 March. The quotation from Wicksteed for a new safety surface in the Recreation Ground play-area had been considered and an alternative quotation had been sought. The WP had noted that some sections of the boundary fence at JF needed repair; Councillor SPENCER was investigating ways of getting the work done. He was also addressing the possibility of taking part in one of the Leisure Fairs planned by HDC later in the year.

Property. Councillor SURSHAM advised the Council that the refurbishment and replacement of parts of the Churchyard wall and gates needed to be considered. The railings in Church Place had been removed during the war, and the brick piers were in a poor condition. The Conservation Officer believed that the piers could be renovated and was seeking estimates for all the work that would, in any event, require planning permission. The work might form part of the Local Heritage Initiative.

Millennium. Councillor HOOKER invited the Council to consider planting more bulbs around the Town in the autumn to complete the much-admired Millennium bulb-planting project.

Other Representative Groups. Councillor Mrs HULL informed the meeting that she and Councillor Mrs TYLER had attended a meeting of the Huntingdon Youth Town Council (YTC). They had both been very impressed, a view shared by several other councillors who had experience of youth council activities. The YTC had issued an invitation to all councillors to attend a meeting in the future. Mrs HULL wished to take the matter forward with the eventual aim of forming youth council for Godmanchester. The Town Clerk had ordered a comprehensive guidebook on the subject and Mrs HULL was also liaising with several organisations in the local area that had experience of forming such groups.

#### 00/032 CCTV

A letter had been received from HDC suggesting that the Town Council "engage the police fully on the provision of CCTV within Godmanchester". The Mayor confirmed that this had been happening for some time. She also reported that the Crime Prevention Panel had agreed to donate £150 towards the cost of video tapes for the Town's own system

#### 00/033 SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2000/2001

Two councillors had accepted had accepted nomination for Town Mayor. They were Councillor Mrs LOOKER and Councillor Mrs TYLER. Each had been formally proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. The votes cast for each candidate were: Councillor Mrs LOOKER 9 and Councillor Mrs TYLER 3. Councillor Mrs LOOKER was therefore duly selected.

Councillor Mrs TYLER had accepted the nomination for Deputy Town Mayor and had been formally proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. She received a unanimous vote in favour and was, therefore, duly selected.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor asked that any councillors who were leaving the Council at the end of their term of office return their gowns and any other Council property to the Town Clerk at by end of April.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 11 MAY 2000.

The meeting ended at 10.15 pm Town Mayor