

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2000

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs LOOKER, Town Mayor
Councillors D COMBEN, E KYNOCH, Mrs MOORE, R NORRIS, S SPENCER,
A SURSHAM, C VANE PERCY, G WILSON
Town Clerk: W D BUTTERWORTH

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs FOSTER, A GOFF, Mrs HULL, Mrs TYLER

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 5 occasions since the last meeting.

She said that there had been a splendid turnout at the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day Service and thanked all the councillors who attended that and the Church Service in the evening.

The Mayor announced the resignation of Cllr Covington from the Town Council. HDC had been informed and the statutory documents had been displayed on the Town Council notice board. As there had been no request for an election, HDC had given approval for the Town Council to co-opt a new member. Mr M Cohen had previously applied to join the Council and it was AGREED that he should be offered the vacancy.

Advance notice of the 20th anniversary of Twinning with Wertheim had been received. Huntingdon would be hosting a dinner on 31 March 2001 and GMC had been asked to organise a function for Sunday, 1 April. It was envisaged that there would be 12 visitors. The Mayor asked for ideas.

The Mayor had reviewed the specimen standing orders for councils and working parties and suggested that all councillors should read them before any decisions were made. The Town Clerk was to distribute copies.

Councillors were reminded that applications for grants would be considered at the next meeting.

The Mayor announced that the Carol Service on School Hill on Saturday, 9 December 2000 would start at 6.30 pm.

Finally, she thanked those councillors who had provided the Town Clerk with details of their membership of WP etc and asked those who had not responded to do so as quickly as possible.

00/081 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2000 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

00/082 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 16 November 2000 was reviewed. The following matters arising from the last meeting were incomplete or required further action: (actions assigned to WPs are dealt with in the appropriate report).

99/048(2) New Town Guide – Cllr VANE PERCY informed the meeting that he planned to have a first draft available by February 2001.

Cllr SURSHAM left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

00/056(2) Cycling on footpaths – Cllr NORRIS reported that the enhanced signage had been completed. Closed

00/056(4) Damaged verges at Grove Terrace – awaiting a decision from HDC; a hastener had been sent on 1 November 2000.

00/071 Community Pool – Cllr Norris had attended a meeting on 3 November 2000 and had requested the financial data. He had stressed to the Pool Committee that any applications for grants must be supported by a business case and detailed accounts. The next meeting would be on 1 December 2000. Closed.

Cllr SURSHAM returned to the meeting at 8.00 pm.

00/083 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence listed at [Appendix A](#) not covered by the WP reports was addressed. The following was agreed:

The Town Clerk was to advise HDC that Cllrs KYNOCH & NORRIS would attend the Periodic Electoral Review meeting on Thursday, 30 November 2000.

The latest draft of "Shaping the Future of Huntingdonshire" would be considered by the Planning WP.

Cllrs COMBEN & KYNOCH agreed to attend the CHUMMS exhibition at Shire Hall on 23 November 2000. Cllr SURSHAM advised the Council that there would be a meeting organised by the Civic Society in the QES on 6 December to discuss the issues.

Cllr SURSHAM reported that the last meeting of the Landfill Site Liaison Committee had taken place on 26 October 2000. Work on restoring the Cells was ahead of schedule with work on Cell 6 planned for 2001. It was possible that Cell 7, the last, would be done at the same time. There had been no difficulties with travellers at the site. Known applications for grants from landfill tax had not yet been finalised and further applications would be welcomed including ones for listed building and archaeology projects. Cllr SURSHAM agreed to discover exactly what could be funded from landfill tax and how much money might be available. Cllrs NORRIS & SPENCER offered to assist him.

00/084 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk had carried out a review of electricity consumption in the Town Hall and recommended that the quarterly contribution to the bill be increased to £50.00. He further recommended that the Senior Citizens Club be paid £275.00 to cover the period from January 1999 to October 2000 to compensate for the lower contributions made during that time. Both recommendations were APPROVED.

The Mayor's fare of £60.00 in connection with the formal Twinning visit to Wertheim for the Sportsfest was APPROVED.

00/085 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.

00/086 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance.

The Precept for 2001/2002 was AGREED at £99,000. The Town Clerk was to advise HDC accordingly.

It was AGREED to allocate a maximum of £1500 in FY 01 / 02 for the upgrading of the mechanism in the Church Clock. Cllr KYNOCH objected to the decision until a satisfactory resolution of the Monks Pit footpath issue.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that the curtains in the QES and JF needed fireproofing to comply with current regulations. Alternative solutions such as replacing the curtains with Venetian blinds or removing the curtains from JF altogether were considered. On balance it was DECIDED to accept the quotation for £697.87 to have all the curtains cleaned and fireproofed.

Ad Hoc (Gnd Maint).

Cllr COMBEN stated that there was a need to update the regimes for litterbins and the osier beds in time for the 2001/2002 contract. The Town Clerk was to check the number of bins in each location.

The next meeting of the Grounds Maintenance WP will be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 5 December 2000 at 26 Earning Street.

Environment.

Cllr COMBEN provided a written report. The Council noted the intention to provide a concept design in January 2001 for the upgrading of the Garden of Rest. Cllr VANE PERCY expressed concern that several headstones had disappeared over the years.

Cllr NORRIS had completed the questionnaires on the Cycling and Walking Strategy and had submitted them to CCC.

Cllrs COMBEN, NORRIS, WILSON & LOOKER expressed an intention to attend the Biodiversity and Rights of Way Workshop on Wednesday, 7 March 2001.

The appeal relating to Monks Pit was with the Secretary of State for a final decision.

The existing screen fence at HDC's yard beneath the A14 flyover was considered inadequate to hide the unsightly area. A solid timber fence would be preferred. The Town Clerk was to write to HDC and invite their comments.

The proposals to replace the church walls, gates and railings in Church Place were well advanced. It was felt that the Diocese should be invited to contribute to the overall cost. Cllr NORRIS agreed to approach the PCC and discover the correct way to approach the matter before the Town Clerk wrote the formal letter.

Cllr NORRIS reported that he had met with Mr J Cooper from CCC to walk the Godmanchester footpaths as part of the Parish Paths Partnership initiative. The work continues.

The next meeting of the Environment WP will be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 29 November 2000 at 26 Earning Street.

Recreation and Amenities.

The WP had not met but Cllr SPENCER reported that he had finally received the 3rd estimate for the refurbishment of the Recreation Ground play-area. There would be a meeting of the WP on Thursday, 23 November 2000 at 7.30 pm in the Town Office when the 3 quotations would be examined together with the proposed schemes.

Cllr SPENCER advised the Council that he had identified potential sources of funding for refurbishment at JF. The Huntingdonshire County Football Association and The Cambridgeshire Football Association both offer financial grants, which in some cases could meet 65% of project costs. However, applications needed to be made by 31 December 2000. It was decided to refer the matter to the JF WP for urgent action.

Cllr SPENCER left the meeting at 10 pm.

Property.

The Council considered 2 quotations for the alterations to the London Road Cemetery wall. It was DECIDED to accept the quotation from T D Smith in the sum of £480.14 plus VAT subject to planning permission being granted.

There was a lively discussion about the plans to rebuild the church walls, gates and railings in Church Place. Concerns were expressed about time-scales, overall costs, the remainder of the church walls and other gates. It was AGREED to allocate up to £20,000 over the next 2 financial years at £10,000 per year towards the Church Place project. Cllr KYNOCH opposed the decision until a satisfactory resolution of the Monks Pit footpath issue.

Cemetery.

The Town Clerk reported that 41 letters had been sent out regarding the proposals to restore the cemetery to lawn status. Replies were coming in and were generally supportive. Several people had expressed an interest in memorial trees. It was suggested that some suitable trees might be acquired under the Parish Planting Scheme in 2001.

Cllr FOSTER had indicated that she would be visiting HDC and Huntingdon Town Council as part of the Best Practice review of Cemetery Administration.

Cllr VANE PERCY left the meeting at 10.10 pm

Judith's Field.

The Mayor reminded the meeting of the visit planned to Buckden Village Hall on Saturday, 25 November 2000.

There was some doubt about the arrangements for the next meeting of the JF WP. The Town Clerk was to contact Cllr GOFF and then promulgate the result.

Other Representative Groups.

There were no other reports.

00/087 A14 ROAD SIGNAGE

The Council agreed that the present signage on the A14 might be causing more traffic than necessary to travel through GMC en-route to Huntingdon. The Town Clerk was to write to CCC Highways accordingly.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to inquire when GMC would be included in the kerbside green box recycling scheme.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2000.

The meeting ended at 10.15 pm Town Mayor