

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 17 MAY 2001

PRESENT: Councillor R NORRIS, Town Mayor
Councillors M COHEN, D COMBEN, A GOFF, A HOOKER, Mrs A LOOKER,
A SURSHAM, Mrs P TYLER, G WILSON
Town Clerk: W D BUTTERWORTH

APOLOGIES: Councillors S SPENCER, C VANE PERCY, Mrs H HULL, E KYNOCH,
Mrs MOORE

PRESENT: Mace Bearer Mr H FOREN

PRESENT: 3 members of the public.

OUTGOING TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Mrs LOOKER, reported that she had represented the Town on 4 occasions since the last meeting. The retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs TYLER, had represented the Town at 3 events. Their final engagement had been a Twinning visit to Salon de Provence where they had attended the Cultural Festival in which young people from Huntingdon and Godmanchester had played a full part. The visit had been very successful and had been carried out at no cost to the Town.

The Mayor's Civic Dinner Dance had been extremely well supported and had raised some £500. As a result she had been able to present a total donation of £1000 to her charity the Macmillan Nurses / Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Woodlands Centre. The Mayor thanked all those councillors who had helped to transform the hall for the event.

Mrs LOOKER thanked all the councillors for their assistance during her term as Town Mayor. In particular, she expressed her gratitude to the retiring Deputy Mayor, Mrs TYLER, for her considerable support. She also thanked Mr Foren, the Mace Bearer, for his invaluable help at the many formal events during the year where he had carried out his duties with great dignity. Finally she thanked the Town Clerk for his contribution during her tenure.

Cllr Mrs TYLER arrived at 7.38 pm

In conclusion, the Mayor expressed her wholehearted support for Councillor NORRIS as the new Town Mayor and wished him well for the coming year.

01/027 INAUGURATION OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2001/2002

Councillor E R NORRIS, having been duly elected to the office of the Town Mayor of Godmanchester at the Godmanchester Town Council Meeting on 19 April 2001, made and signed the formal declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Town Clerk.

He thanked the Town Council for its vote of confidence and said that he considered it a privilege and an honour to serve as the Town Mayor. He hoped to build on the good work already accomplished and expressed his intention to continue to channel work through the

working parties (WP). To that end he asked that more councillors attended WPs so that wide ranging debate and the detailed analysis of issues could take place before full Council Meetings where summaries and recommendations could be then presented.

He had yet to decide on his charities for the year but would advise the Council later.

He asked that a vote of thanks be recorded for Councillor Mrs LOOKER for the dedicated and cheerful way she had carried out her mayoral duties during the past year. She had been a popular and highly regarded Mayor and a great credit to the Town. He went on to say that he was delighted that she had agreed to be Deputy Mayor for the coming year. He also recorded his thanks to Councillor Mrs TYLER for her contribution as Deputy Town Mayor and for her work as the Town's representative on the Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association.

Finally, he thanked the Reverend Peter Moger for agreeing to act as the Mayor's Chaplain, the Town Clerk and his assistant for their efforts and Mr Harry Foren for agreeing to continue as Mace Bearer for a little longer. In particular, he wished to add his appreciation for Mr Foren's dependable and cheerful support during the last few years.

01/028 INAUGURATION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2001/2002

Councillor Mrs A LOOKER, having been duly elected to the office of the Deputy Town Mayor of Godmanchester at the Godmanchester Town Council Meeting on 19 April 2001, made and signed the formal declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Town Clerk.

The Mayor then asked the Reverend Peter Moger to lead the Council in prayers for the Town, the Mayor & Councillors and the Queen.

01/029 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

01/030 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 17 May 2001 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).

The Mayor announced that the fingerpost at the junction of The Causeway and West Street had finally been replaced and asked the Town Clerk to write to Dr Middlemiss to thank him for his part in the restoration project.

99/048(2) Councillor NORRIS confirmed that work on the second draft of the new Town Guide was continuing.

99/082(5) The Council noted that work on the 30mph roundels had started. CLOSED.

00/056(4) The Council DECIDED not to pursue the issue of the damaged verges at Grove Terrace further. CLOSED.

00/094 The Town Clerk reported that CCC intended to fit discreet, safety handrails to the Chinese Bridge. CLOSED

01/022 Cllr NORRIS reported that he had submitted the Countryside Access Questionnaire. CLOSED.

01/031 CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Council considered the HDC Local Decision Making Questionnaire and DECIDED that Option A “Leader and Cabinet” was preferred. However, the Council believed that none of the Options had the same strength as the old system which spread the power amongst all the elected representatives.

In the absence of Cllr Mrs MOORE it was decided to defer the decisions on the 2 quotations associated with the CCTV until the next meeting. However, it was AGREED that the Town Clerk could order an additional master key for JF at a cost of £13.98 +VAT.

The Council noted the information about the Cambridgeshire Community Network. It was DECIDED that the Town Clerk should invite CCC to attend a future Council Meeting to talk about the project.

Cllr NORRIS confirmed that the Parish Paths Partnership application had been submitted. The Town Clerk confirmed that the latest guidelines relating to Foot & Mouth restrictions had been displayed on the Town notice board.

Cllr NORRIS informed the Council that the new timetables for Local Bus Services showed that the services at peak times and to Crowhill had been retained in line with the Council’s recommendations.

01/032 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED with 2 amendments:

The Town Council did not accept the proposed 3% increase proposed by K Fergusons Ltd to cover inflation. There was no provision in the contract for such an increase and the Town Clerk was to advise the company accordingly. A cheque for the amended sum of £1520.54 + VAT was to be sent to cover the bill.

The Town Council noted that the bill from HDC on behalf of Enviroserve was for the full amount for the planting and maintenance of Buttermel Meadow despite the maintenance period not yet being complete. It was AGREED that payment would not be made until the final inspection and contract closure had taken place. The Town Clerk was to invite Enviroserve to attend a site meeting at 9.30 am on either Saturday, 2 June 2001 or Saturday, 9 June 2001 to complete the contract.

01/033 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.

01/034 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. Although the WP had met the Chair was not available to give a report. Deferred to next meeting.

Environment. The WP had met on 1 May 2001; the Chairman expressed his disappointment that more councillors had not attended. Cllr COMBEN provided a comprehensive written report of the meeting and the following recommendations were AGREED:

The Town Clerk was to order a complete lifesaving ring and housing for installation in the vicinity of the Old Mill Sluice. Cllr COMBEN was to decide on the precise location of the unit.

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to confirm that it would fund winter pollarding of the Willows and to seek financial assistance for the work needed on storm damaged trees.

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to confirm the site criteria for an air quality monitoring unit.

The Town Council would not give its support to the proposal to install a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Riverside Mill.

The Town Council should join the Open Spaces Society. The Annual subscription would be £25 with an additional enrolment fee of £10.

The Town Clerk was to write to CCC and HDC to check if either organisation had an interest in the railings along The Avenue.

The Countryside Management Best Value Questionnaire had been completed and submitted by Cllr COMBEN on 8 May 2001.

Councillors who wished to attend any of the events in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Council's Waste Programme should consult the documents held by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk was to write to the HDC recycling officer to reiterate the Godmanchester Town Council's interest in the Green Box Scheme.

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to investigate the possibility of providing hard-standing for car parking adjacent to Toll Cottages on The Avenue, as an alternative to the grass verges that were continually destroyed by parked vehicles.

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to investigate what might be done to prevent damage to the grass verge at the entrance to Betts Close, possibly by the provision of additional parking bays. He was also to clarify the ownership of the fencing at the back of the verge, one section of which had already fallen down.

The Town Clerk was to place an order for the purchase and installation of a litterbin in the vicinity of the A14 underpass behind the cricket pitch; Cllr COMBEN would identify the precise location. The Town Clerk was also to ascertain whether the new bin would be included on the HDC street cleansing contract.

The Town Clerk was to seek a quotation from Fergusons Ltd for the careful and sympathetic removal of small branch growth from the Willow Trees within 4 metres of the ground directly above the access road from the Old Mill Sluice to the Recreation Ground.

The Town Clerk was to write to Mrs J Brock explaining the background and plans for tree planting in the vicinity of Lancaster Way.

The Town Clerk was to contact Fergusons Ltd to determine when the trees would be collected for planting in the Cemetery.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 29 May 2001 at 26 Earning Street. The Mayor reiterated the Chairman's request for as many councillors as possible attend to ensure that the wide range of important topics could be moved along with inputs from all interested parties.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.15 pm to allow questions from the public.

County Councillor Mrs A White congratulated the new Town Mayor on his appointment and thanked Councillor Mrs LOOKER for her work as Mayor during 2000 / 2001. Mrs White said that she had enjoyed serving the people of Godmanchester during her 4 years as a County Councillor but would not be standing again in the coming elections. However, she suggested that it might be advantageous if her successor attended Town Council meetings on a regular basis – say once per quarter – to advise on developments at Shire Hall and take back concerns from the Town Council. Such an arrangement would have to be co-ordinated with Huntingdon Town Council. In response, the Town Mayor welcomed the suggestion and thanked Mrs White for all the work she had done on the County Council. He concluded by wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Mr Foren, speaking on behalf of the Community Association, asked that the Recreation Ground be reserved for Gala day on 7 July 2001 and the Picnic in the Park on 8 July 2001. He also welcomed the decision to trim the willows to provide safe access to the Recreation Ground for the floats on Gala Day.

The meeting reconvened at 9.25 pm

Recreation and Amenities. The WP had not met. The Town Clerk was to ask Councillor SPENCER to hold a meeting as soon as possible to take the WREN application forward with particular emphasis on the 11% 3rd party funding. Councillor HOOKER felt that the total sum required was too much for the Community Association to donate. [Note: since the meeting it has been learned that the 11% need not all come from a single source]

Property. Councillor SURSHAM reported that he had received the 2nd quotation for the church railings project and the WP needed to meet to take the work on to the next stage. The next meeting would be at 9.30 am on Saturday, 19 May 2001.

Cemetery. Councillor COHEN advised the Council that a meeting was needed to address a number of issues including a letter from Mr Orbell about the lawning programme and the transfer of cemetery administration from HDC to Godmanchester Town Council. The Town Clerk reported that Mrs Hakimi had indicated that she would be willing to take on the role of Cemetery Administration Clerk as a separate job. Huntingdon Town Council had offered to provide her training.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 30 May 2001 at 34 Croftfield Road.

Judith's Field. Councillor GOFF reported that the bid to the Sports Lottery Fund could not be made until the project had achieved charity status. The advice from ACRE was that the next critical step was to apply for outline planning permission without which no further progress would be possible. However, making the application in no way committed the Town Council to further expenditure or, indeed, prevented the Council from cancelling the project. Councillor WILSON reflected the concerns of several councillors when he asked if the Town Survey had proved that there was a real need for the new facility. Was there in fact a sound business case based on predicted revenue verses predicted running costs as opposed to capital expenditure? Councillor GOFF explained that the formal business case would be prepared. However, the trustees, who had yet to be identified, would have to be involved as would other organisations in the Town who might fear that a new hall would result in a loss of their own income. It was AGREED that an application for outline planning permission should be made at a cost of £95.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 13 June 2001 at Judith's Field.

Other Representative Groups.

Councillor SURSHAM had attended a meeting about the landfill site. SITA had applied for an extension to the north of the existing site, which would increase the life of the facility to a total of 4 and a half years from the present date. There was also a proposal for the construction of an electricity generator powered by landfill gas.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a meeting of the Community Swimming Pool Committee where plans had been put in place to improve the overall financial management in order to compensate for the deficit in the balance of income to expenditure.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 21 JUNE 2001.

The meeting ended at 10.05 pm Town Mayor