

## **GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2001**

**PRESENT:** Councillor, Mrs A LOOKER Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillors D BROWN, M COHEN, D COMBEN, A HOOKER,  
Mrs HULL, E KYNOCH, Mrs MOORE, S SPENCER,  
A SURSHAM, Mrs P TYLER, C VANE PERCY, G WILSON,  
Town Clerk: W D BUTTERWORTH

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R NORRIS, A GOFF

**PRESENT:** 2 members of the public.

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

The Mayor had represented the Town on 11 occasions since the last meeting in addition to his considerable participation in the week-long Twinning Visit / Youthfest. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Town at 2 events.

The Deputy Mayor reminded everyone of the arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial. Councillors were asked to gather at the Town Hall at 10.30am on Sunday 11 November 2001 before going in procession to the Memorial at 10.35 am. Gowns were to be worn. Refreshments would be served in the Town Hall afterwards. She went on to outline the plan for the Church Service on the Sunday evening and asked councillors to meet at the Parish Church at 6.25 pm. Once again gowns would be worn. The Deputy Mayor would be reading the lesson.

#### **01/061 SELECTION OF NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR**

HDC had given approval for the Town Council to co-opt a new councillor to replace Mrs M Foster. One application had been received and councillors were invited to read the written submission from Mr David Brown who then gave a short verbal resume of his background and his reasons for applying to join the Town Council.

Councillor SURSHAM arrived at 7.45 pm.

Members of the public were then asked to leave the chamber while the Council considered the application. The decision to elect Mr Brown was unanimous and after signing his declaration he took his place at the Council Table at 7.55 pm. The Town Clerk was to advise HDC accordingly.

#### **01/062 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

### **01/063 MATTERS ARISING**

The Outstanding Actions List dated 18 October 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).

**99/048(2) New Town Guide** – Councillor VANE PERCY had provided a written update and was progressing the methods of production with a number of outlets and would seek tenders. The project now had 2 elements: the Town Guide and the Town Trail. It was DECIDED that the Town Trail would be given priority. As an interim measure it was AGREED that the possibility of putting the Town Guide on the Godmanchester website should be investigated. The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 6 November 2001 at Island Hall.

**00/047(5) Bid for landfill tax funds** – WREN had approved a grant towards the cost of refurbishing the Recreation Ground play-area. The details would be known in a few days time. Closed

**00/066 Monks Pit** – The Secretary of State had upheld the Town's appeal and the footpath around Monks Pit would become an official public right of way. Councillor COMBEN was formally thanked for his tireless efforts over the previous 2 years that had made the outcome possible. The Town Clerk was to write to all those people who provided written evidence in support of original bid and to Mr Doherty for his valuable contribution. Closed

**01/043 Mobile Air Quality Unit** – HDC had confirmed that they had made contact with the landowner and would now take the matter forward. They had thanked the Town Council for its help. Closed.

**01/043(Env) Tourist Information Point** – HDC had confirmed that they would install the unit in the New Year and would consult the Town Council about the content of the poster. Closed

### **01/064 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**Street Warden Initiative.** – The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended an HHP seminar about the proposals. However, after a lengthy discussion, it was DECIDED that the impact of 5 wardens spread over the large geographical area would be negligible and therefore the Town Council could not support the scheme in its present form. A larger scheme run by HDC and with far more resources would be preferred. The Town Council would be pleased to consider revised proposals in the future. Concern was also expressed that the introduction of wardens might result in a decrease in police presence.

Councillor SPENCER arrived at 8.37 pm

**Attendance at Planning WP by District Councillor** – It was DECIDED that it would be inappropriate for a District Councillor to attend the Planning WP as this would create a

precedent for anyone to attend any WP. Instead, it was AGREED that both District Councillors would be sent copies of all Town Council recommendations for refusal of planning applications so that they would be better able to represent the Town's views at the District Council. The District Councillors were also to be invited to seek additional information, if required, from the Town Clerk or the Chair of the Planning WP.

**Death of Capt Carr** – The Deputy Mayor had researched the 'plane crash in 1970 in which Capt Carr had been killed. The Town Clerk was to pass the information to Stuart Bond.

**Golden Jubilee Picnic in the Park** – The matter was deferred until the Council meeting in November by which time the Finance WP would have had time to review the proposals.

**Mobile Police Station** – It was DECIDED to accept a visit by the mobile police station. The preferred days would be a Saturday or during a school holiday.

The Deputy Mayor encouraged all councillors to return individual copies of the Cambridgeshire Services Consultation Leaflet.

Councillor KYNOCH volunteered to review the **CCC draft Corporate Plan 2002 – 2006**.

## **01/065 ACCOUNTS**

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk provided a summary of expenditure and income for the first 6 months of the FY.

Councillor VANE PERCY left the meeting at 9.00 pm

## **01/066 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.

Councillor HOOKER left the meeting from 9.17 pm until 9.25 pm to check a planning feature on a local building.

Councillor WILSON reported that the last WP had been very well attended and recommended that the concept of combined / sequential WPs be continued.

The Council expressed its disappointment about the success of the planning application for 6 houses in Betts Close. The Town Clerk was to write to CALC with details of the Town Council's objections and the views of the HDC planning officers. He was also to ask for comment about the attitude of the District Council and seek advice on how the Town Council might strengthen its cases in the future.

Councillor KNOCH expressed concern about the Environment Agency's apparent support to an application to build on the flood plain. It was explained that the Agency gave advice only on the conditions to be applied once the planning permission had been granted.

There was general concern that neighbours who objected to planning applications were not informed when the Development Control Panel (DCP) was meeting to make a determination. The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to invite it to establish a policy whereby objectors would be informed and could then attend the DCP to hear the arguments and the rationale behind the decision.

Councillor WILSON left the meeting at 9.30 pm

## **01/067 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS**

**Finance.** The next meeting of the Finance WP would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 30 October 2001 at 4 Crowhill. The Chairs of all WPs were asked to provide Councillor Mrs MOORE with their budgets for Precept 2002/2003 before the WP met.

**Recreation and Amenities** The WP met on 11 October 2001. Councillor SPENCER reported that he had received 3 compliant quotations to a common specification for tarmacadam to cover the JF car park and access road to the skatepark. He recommended that the lowest quotation from F&T Goodwin Ltd in the sum of £5,978.00 (ex VAT) be accepted. AGREED. The Town Clerk was to notify all 3 companies of the decision and seek a date from F&T Goodwin for the work. It was further AGREED that the work should not take place until after 5 November 2001.

The request for mud jumps in the vicinity of the skatepark was deferred until the next meeting. In response to a question from the Town Clerk about what was to be done with 2 damaged football goal posts at JF, Councillor SPENCER agreed to visit the site make a decision.

**Environment.** The next meeting of the Environment WP would be combined with the Finance WP at 8 pm on Tuesday, 30 October at 4 Crowhill.

It was AGREED the Town Clerk could invite Ashley & Foster to repair the small door on the electricity structure at the entrance to JF. Vandals had kicked in the existing door.

**Property.** Councillor SURSHAM reported that he had received 3 compliant bids for the project to restore the walls, gates and railings at the Parish Church. He recommended that the bid from A Chatters/ T Smith in the sum of £59,843 (ex VAT) be accepted. AGREED SUBJECT TO FUNDING.

The funding was to be achieved as follows:

Grant from HDC £3,000.00

Grant from Civic Society £5,000.00

Of which £3000.00 would be used to provide the third party funding for the SITA bid

Bid to SITA £30,000.00

Contribution from Godmanchester Town Council £25,000.00

AGREED - £12,500 in current FY, £12,500 in FY 02/03

The Town Clerk was to submit the bid to SITA to meet the 30 October 2001 deadline. In addition, drawings of the project were to be available in the Town Office for any member of the electorate to view.

Councillor TYLER left the meeting at 10.07 pm

**Cemetery.** The WP had met on 11 October 2001. Councillor COHEN outlined the next elements in the hand-over process:

The WP had to work with the Finance WP to agree cemetery charges and costs.

The latest version of the cemetery regulations had been prepared and was to be circulated with the Minutes for comments. The Town Clerk was to check on the date of the Births and Deaths Registration Act.

Further investigation was needed into drainage problems at the cemetery.

The manhole cover and water tap in the car park had been damaged by the recent car fire.

The proposed memorial garden project needed initial design work.

The next meeting of the WP would be combined with the Finance WP meeting.

**Judith's Field.** The WP had not met.

#### **Other Representative Groups.**

CALC/NALC No report.

SITA Councillor SURSHAM had attended a SITA meeting on 12 October 2001 and reported that the fly problem had been resolved. The site now had a new manager and was being expanded. There appeared to have been some disquiet about the lack of information passed to the Environment Agency about the 2 incidents where trucks going to the site had overturned. The Town Clerk was to investigate the matter. The next meeting of SITA would be on 5 April 2002.

HDC Councillor KYNOCH had attended a meeting at HDC where the issue of free bus shelters had been discussed. He agreed to ensure that Godmanchester's interests were represented in the project and asked all councillors to consider the best locations for shelters in the Town.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Town Clerk reported that he was no longer willing to attend JF alarm call outs during the hours of darkness until the police again agreed to respond automatically. They had withdrawn their support following a number of false alarms. Thistle believed that they had discovered 2 potentially faulty sensors and the weak door on the referees room had been replaced. If there were no further alarms for 3 months, the Town Clerk would ask the police to readopt the building for automatic response. Councillors SPENCER and HOOKER volunteered to be keyholders for the interim period, respond to call-outs at night and inform the emergency services as required.

The Deputy Mayor reported that the floor in the main hall of the QES had bulged up by several inches and that an initial investigation had revealed the central heating pipes to be in

poor condition. The plumbers who did the original work were being contacted but she warned the Council that a substantial bill for repairs might result.

Councillor COMBEN left the meeting at 10.25 pm

Councillor KYNOCH observed that the hanging baskets on the Town Bridge were in a sorry state. The Town Clerk reported that the ones from the Recreation ground had already been taken down and that the ones on the bridge would also be taken away.

Councillor SPENCER asked what progress was being made with the JF project. He was concerned that the momentum had been lost.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2001.

The meeting ended at 10.25 pm Town Mayor