

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2002**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor
Councillors M COHEN, D COMBEN, A GOFF, Mrs H HULL, E KYNOCH, Mrs B
MOORE, R NORRIS, S SPENCER, A SURSHAM, G WILSON
Town Clerk: A J WELTON

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs P TYLER, C VANE PERCY, D BROWN

PRESENT: There were no members of the public present.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 5 occasions since the last meeting. Amongst the more satisfying had been the presentations of Jubilee mugs to the Godmanchester school children.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had represented the Town on 3 occasions since the last meeting.

Cllr Mrs Moore arrived at 7.42pm.

02/032 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May 2002 had been amended to include a decision made under Any Other Business. The Council had agreed to pay for a number of headstones to be re-erected and secured. Messrs Ashley and Foster had quoted £589.00 plus VAT and this sum was APPROVED. The revised minutes would be signed at the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Wilson arrived at 7.49pm.

02/033 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 20 June 2002 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. The New Town Guide was now being printed and would be available for sale at 50 pence per copy with effect from the week beginning 24 June 2002. This matter was now CLOSED.

21 March 2002 AOB ATM machine. Cllr COHEN reported that he had approached the Alliance & Leicester Bank who had undertaken to carry out a survey into the suitability of the Post Office/ "One Stop" shop as a venue for an ATM.

01/060 Painting railings in The Avenue. Ashley & Foster had indicated that work would start in the week beginning 17 June 2002.

02/034 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence listed at Appendix A not covered by the WP reports was addressed.

The Deputy Mayor would represent Godmanchester Town Council at the St Ives Civic Service and parade on 23 June 2002.

In response to the DLTR consultation paper on Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct Allegations, all Councillors were asked to ensure that any comments were sent to the Town Clerk for correlation and forwarding.

The Town Clerk had received an approach from District Cllr Mrs Godley concerning the possible purchase of the CCTV system by Brampton Parish Council. The Town Clerk had advised the Council that, as the system was the only one to provide a clear view of the entrance to QES and to the public toilets, it was recommended that the Town Council should retain the system. APPROVED.

The Town Council had received an application from a Mr Ashworth requesting that he be considered for the vacant position on the Town Council. It was DECIDED that the Town Clerk was to write to Mr Ashworth, inviting him to attend the next council meeting.

The Town Council had received a request from the Godmanchester and District Allotment Holders Association for two members to act as judges in the Best Kept Allotment Competition. Cllrs GOFF and Mrs HULL volunteered for this event.

Cllr Kynoch arrived at 8.10pm.

HDC had sent a reminder to all Parish and Town Council Clerks that Registration of Financial and other Interest forms should be returned to the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible. The last of those completed forms was returned to the Town Clerk at the meeting.

02/035 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

02/036 GRANTS

The Mayor opened the item by reminding the Council of its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. After much discussion it was DECIDED that, as a general principle, whilst acknowledging that needs existed, national groups would be awarded a maximum of £50.00. The Council then considered 9 applications under S137. The following grants were APPROVED:

Church of St Mary the Virgin An award of £1200.00 towards the annual insurance of the Church. This sum was not included in the allowance for the half-yearly grants.

St Mary's 0 to 5 Group An award of £360.00.

NSPCC An award of £50.00.

Victim Support Huntingdon Area An award of £50.00.

GMC Baptist Church Holiday Club An award of £500.00 was APPROVED on a majority vote.

Cambridge and Godmanchester Cricket Club A grant of £600.00.

Macmillan Cancer Relief An award of £50.00.

Huntingdon University of the Third Age (U3A) An award of £300.00.

Riverside Rangers FC An award of £200.00 towards the cost of hiring the football pitch.

02/037 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.

Cllr WILSON suggested that Mr Richard Probyn and Mr Michael Bingham, together with the two District Cllrs, should be invited to a Town Council meeting to discuss the three proposed housing development sites in Godmanchester. APPROVED.

There was lively discussion over the letter to the Council from Mr Westcott Rudd concerning the Godmanchester Football and Sports Association. As the views expressed in his letter did not accord with what had been said at the Town Council meeting held on 16 May 2002. It was pointed out that minutes of Town Council meetings were published and all meetings were open to the public. Cllr COMBEN proposed that Mr Westcott Rudd and Mr K Gabb, the two trustees of the Godmanchester Football and Sports Association, be invited to attend the August Town Council meeting. APPROVED.

02/038 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had met on 6 June 2002. Cllr Mrs MOORE circulated a spreadsheet comparing the expenditure on grounds maintenance under HDC and under the Agency agreement with Fergusons. The meeting agreed that the figures were comparable but felt that there was now greater control over what was done and when under the Agency agreement. The next WP meeting would be held on Tuesday 2 July 2002 at 4 Crowhill from 8.00pm.

Environment. The WP had met on 6 June 2002. Cllr NORRIS had assumed responsibility for chairing the WP and had agreed, with his predecessor, a list of projects that required to be pursued or monitored.

Monks Pitt – awaiting confirmation of the date of the Public Enquiry.

Post Street Cycle Path – a survey of the route by GMC TC and HDC (Mr B Stinton) had taken place on 2 May 2002. HDC had agreed to trial an advisory route.

Ashley & Foster were painting the railings on The Avenue in the week beginning 17 June 2002.

The lime trees in The Avenue were to be pruned and sprayed around the bases.

Town Signs; the contractors, Malcolm Lane had been tasked to go ahead with providing two new signs, one on Cambridge Road and one on London Road. The other two signs, Godmanchester Mill and West Street, would be refurbished. An estimate for the cost of refurbishment was awaited.

A response from HDC was awaited on the road signs on the B1043.

Re-siting of the litterbin outside One Stop – HDC was reluctant to move the bin from outside the hairdressers.

Off street parking – The Avenue, Cambridge Road and Betts Close. HDC had reviewed the need but had concluded that there were other, higher priority, cases within the district. The proposals would be reconsidered at the next review.

Continuing projects were the footpath to the lock, the Garden of Remembrance and the Garden of Rest.

The next WP would be held on Tuesday 2 July 2002 at 8.00pm at 4 Crowhill.

Property. The WP had met on 6 June 2002. A quotation for the work on the railings, following the withdrawal of Mr Chatters, had been received from D J Saywell Ltd. The Town Council considered the figures to be reasonable and APPROVED the expenditure of £15850.00 plus VAT.

There was a lengthy discussion on QES. The MAYOR reported that a quotation had been received from Mr O'Connor for the repair of the central heating system but that this did not include the cost of the gas supply element of the work required. The Town Clerk was to seek the advice and an estimate from Corgi Registered contractors and to ask Mr O'Connor also to liaise with a Corgi Registered contractor.

There were approximately 50 nursery transplants in the Cemetery. The Town Clerk was to obtain a price for the application of non-selective weed killer around the bases from Fergusons.

The next WP would be held at 4 Crowhill on Tuesday 2 July 2002 at 8.00pm.

Judith's Field. The WP had not met but Cllr GOFF presented a comprehensive breakdown of the refurbishment needs for the facilities at Judith's Field. In many cases circumstances had dictated that he had only a single quotation for the work. The problem was that the window of opportunity for carrying out the refurbishment work was during the school holidays, which were fast approaching. If the work were not carried out this summer, the next opportunity would not be until April 2003. The overall cost, including a serving hatch was £11262.00. Following some debate, the Town Council APPROVED the expenditure subject to retaining 5% of the total, which would be paid upon successful and satisfactory completion of the work. Cllr GOFF expressed his concern that, because the skate park was not lit, there

was very little presence during the darker hours. This led to the greater opportunities for vandalism. Representations had been made to HDC to reconsider the introduction of CCTV and lighting.

Other Representative Groups.

CALC/NALC The WP had not met. Cllr NORRIS would be attending the CALC AGM on 25 June 2002.

Twinning Association The WP had not met.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk advised the Town Council that he had revised the wording on the published Cemetery Charges to remove any ambiguity. APPROVED.

The Town Clerk explained the need to increase to 16 hours per week, the number of hours worked by the Town Clerk's Assistant to cover the increase in work now that the Cemetery was the responsibility of Godmanchester Town Council. The cost was approximately an additional £20.00 per month. APPROVED

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 18 JULY 2002.

The meeting ended 10:55pm Town Mayor