

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2002**

PRESENT: Councillor S SPENCER Deputy Town Mayor
Councillors D T ASHWORTH, D BROWN, M COHEN, A GOFF, E KYNOCH, R
NORRIS, A SURSHAM, C VANE PERCY and G WILSON
Town Clerk: A J WELTON
Mace Bearer: M WILLIAMS

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor, D COMBEN, Mrs H HULL,
Mrs P TYLER

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs B MOORE

PRESENT: There was 1 member of the public present.

Councillor VANE PERCY arrived at 7:32pm.

PRESENTATION BY COMMUNITY POLICE

The Community Policeman for Godmanchester, PC R Carter, was to have given a brief presentation on the youth problems being experienced in the community, outlining what had happened so far and what action the Police were intending to do in the immediate future. However, due to other commitments PC Carter was unable to attend. It was hoped that this presentation could be given at a later date.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had not represented the Town since the last meeting. In the absence of the Town Mayor it was known only that she had represented the Town on 1 occasion, the Civic Service, which had gone very well.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Cllr ASHWORTH to the meeting as this was his first meeting since his appointment as a Town Councillor.

02/063 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 August 2002 were APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

02/064 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 19 September 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):

00/074 Cemetery. The Town Clerk was still to approach Fergusons to confirm a date for the turfing of the cemetery. Any date agreed would entail the clearance of inappropriate objects

from grave spaces prior to turfing. The delay had been caused partly by the Town Clerk being on holiday, and partly because the Town Council still had to agree on a date for their action, i.e. clearing the various objects from the grave spaces. After some debate, it was DECIDED that clearance of inappropriate objects by members of the Town Council would take place on Saturday 12 October 2002. The Town Clerk was to advise the contractor that work on levelling and re-turfing should start on the following Monday.

02/056 Correspondence. The Deputy Mayor had undertaken to approach the Huntingdon Housing Partnership (HHP) to ascertain whether the Street Warden scheme could be extended to include Judith's Field. However, because of pressure of work, he had not been able to action this. The Town Clerk was asked to write to HHP.

The Town Clerk had still to approach the Health & Safety Executive to determine liability concerning loose headstones in the cemetery. The delay had been caused by his being on holiday. In the meantime, Cllr COHEN suggested that, instead of laying loose headstones flat, a simple method of marking the headstones to ease identification should be adopted. This was AGREED.

02/060 Environment. Dr Middlemiss had been advised that his offer to refurbish the town sign on West Street had been accepted. He had purchased some of the materials required and was being reimbursed for those. What was now required was for the sign to be removed and taken to his house. Previously, Cllr BROWN had indicated that he would be willing to do this.

02/065 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Referring to the letter from Winckworth Sherwood covering an application for a Justices' Off-Licence, the Town Council was of the opinion that there were already too many outlets in the town where intoxicating liquor could be obtained. The Town Clerk was to write to the local magistrates objecting on behalf of the Town Council. The Deputy Mayor asked that the correspondence be copied to all Councillors so that as many objections as possible were sent to the magistrates.

Town Clerk's note: Since the meeting, correspondence has been received withdrawing the application completely. Consequently, although the Town Clerk has written to Huntingdon Magistrates and to the applicant with the Town Council's objections, no further action is now required.

Cllr GOFF had not been able to attend the ACRE presentation on Parish Plans due to ill health. The Deputy Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Goff to recognise the time and effort he had put into bringing the facilities at Judith's Field up to an acceptable standard. AGREED.

When discussing the agenda for the HGTA, the Deputy Mayor announced that Cllr Mrs TYLER had reluctantly had to resign from the committee. Cllr SURSHAM volunteered to replace her.

Cllr WILSON advised the Town Council that, since he had changed jobs at work, there was now a conflict of interests if he were to represent the Town Council at the Examination in Public covering the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Deposit Draft Structure Plan 2002. Whilst he was still willing to offer advice to the Town Council, he would not be able to take an active part in representing the Town Council at meetings. In the meantime, the Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs LOOKER, would represent the Town Council at the Examination in Public.

Cllr NORRIS agreed to attend the CALC AGM on 12 October 2002.

An invitation to join the charity, Friends of War Memorials, had been received by the Town Council. After some discussion, the Town Council APPROVED the life membership of the charity at a one-off contribution of £100.00. The Town Clerk was to advise the Charity that Godmanchester Town Council wished to take up life membership.

The Royal Oak Bowls Club had submitted an urgent request for funding for a replacement lawn mower. The Deputy Mayor had already had some discussion with the treasurer of the club and had pointed him in the direction of a specialist in lawn mower repairs. In the meantime, the request for funds was deferred until the December 2002 round of S137 grants.

02/066 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

During discussion of the accounts for the month, it was noted that Fergusons had been late in presenting their account for the month of July. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Fergusons inviting them to submit their monthly accounts early enough in the month for them to be settled by the time of the monthly Town Council meeting, i.e. before the third Thursday in each month.

02/067 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.

Following notification of the adoption of Sweetings Road by the District Council, the Town Clerk was asked to ask what speed limiting alterations would be put in place. It was alleged that the road was been used as a race-track and it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident.

02/068 PICNIC IN THE PARK – 2003 FUNDING

In the absence of Cllr Mrs MOORE, chair of the Finance WP, this subject was deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

02/069 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The Finance Working Party had not met.

Environment. The Environment Working Party had not met. However, Cllr NORRIS had had the opportunity to review the correspondence related to the Environment.

There was some discussion concerning the suggested “No waiting time” proposals for Chadley Lane and Orchard Way. It was AGREED that Cllr NORRIS would draft a reply to be sent by the Town Clerk, incorporating the suggestion that rather than “No Waiting” the facility should become a “Residents Only” parking area.

It was noted that the litter bins at Judith’s Field were broken beyond repair and needed replacing. The Town Clerk was to obtain quotations for the cost of replacement for the 2 bins and present his findings to the Town Council at the next meeting.

Cllr NORRIS reported that Smith of Derby had checked the links on the St Mary’s church bells and had advised that they were in need of replacement at a cost of £664.00 plus VAT. It was DECIDED to postpone any decision until after the Finance WP had met and made its recommendations.

Details of the Small Scale Environmental Improvements to Church Place had been received from HDC. Including surface dressing and lighting the estimate was for £12000.00, allowing for the worst case cost of electricity supplies. The HDC engineer had advised the Town Clerk that HDC would look for a contribution from Godmanchester Town Council of the order of 25%, i.e. approximately £3000.00. It was decided to defer any decisions until after the matter had been discussed by both the Property and Finance WPs.

The next Environmental WP meeting would be held on Monday 7 October 2002 at 17 Porch Close at 8:00pm.

Property. The Property WP had not met since the last Town Council meeting. The next Property WP meeting would be held on Monday 7 October 2002 at 17 Porch Close at 8:00pm.

Judith’s Field. Cllr GOFF reported that the skate park at Judith’s Field had now been repaired.

He went on to report that applications had been made to 2 charities for grants for lighting but the results of the applications were still awaited. It was hoped that once adequate lighting had been installed this would lead to the installation of CCTV facilities.

Cllr GOFF then outlined the continuing need for improvements to the building and advised those present that there was now a need for the installation of hand-dryers in both toilets. He had received 3 quotations for similar equipment; SEC had quoted £611.57 plus VAT; I S Munro had quoted £499.00 plus VAT and Huntingdon Specialist Coatings (HSC) had quoted £324.00 plus VAT. The Town Council APPROVED the expenditure of £324.00 plus VAT quoted by HSC.

Additionally, there was a need exclude vehicles from the playing area of Judith’s Field. Quotations had been sought for the closing of the gap in the earth bund with a simple but sturdy metal gate and closing the gap between the existing end of the bund and the end of the building. Again there had been 3 quotations, the lowest being £565.00 plus VAT from Fergusons. The Town Council APPROVED the expenditure of this sum.

Other Representative Bodies. Cllr SURSHAM advised that he had represented the Town Council on the LEAF walk. He had found it both worthwhile and informative.

Cllr VANE PERCY left the meeting at 10:00pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The HGTA had asked the Town Council to consider what activities should be included in the programme for the visiting Mayors of the Twin Towns when they visited in April 2003 for the Culture Festival. The Chairman of the HGTA had advised the Town Clerk that costs would be borne in the ratio of 3 to 1 and that the likely contribution from Godmanchester would probably not exceed £1000.00. Discussion of this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr BROWN asked the Town Clerk to approach the Environment Agency about cleaning graffiti from the lock.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2002.

The meeting ended 10.20pm Town Mayor