

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2003**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor  
Councillors D ASHWORTH, D BROWN, A GOFF, Mrs H HULL, E KYNOCH, Mrs B MOORE, R NORRIS, A SURSHAM, C VANE PERCY and G WILSON  
Town Clerk: A J WELTON

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor S SPENCER, M COHEN

**ABSENT:** Councillor D COMBEN

**PRESENT:** There were 9 members of the public present.

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

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 6 occasions since the last meeting. She advised the meeting that, according to the measuring device outside the Town Hall, at the height of the floods the level recorded was 9.96 meters.

### **03/001 VISITING SPEAKERS**

There were 3 sets of visiting speakers; Huntingdon Primary Care Trust; Huntingdon Youth Centre, Detached Work Programme and Huntingdon Community Police, Community Beat Manager.

**Huntingdon Primary Care Trust** were represented by Michael Lynch, the Chairman; Andrew Hopkins, Director of Finance and Information and Ann-Marie Hamilton, a Non-Executive Director. Mr Lynch started by saying that the Trust had had a good first year, explained what the Trust was and its purpose – to improve the health of the community, develop primary and community services and commission secondary care services. Mr Hopkins then went on to outline the achievements, which included working with Hinchingsbrooke Hospital to open the Medical Assessment Unit, continuing to develop the Intermediate Care Service, reduce waiting times by employing specialists in various specialisms and the introduction of allowing opticians to make referrals directly to Eye Consultants without going through the patients GP first. Additionally they were developing the role of health visiting assistants to extend their smoking cessation service. Finally Mr Lynch outlined plans for the near future, which included the proposed opening of a number of new medical facilities in the community, particularly in the proposed redevelopment of Sapley Square. This new facility would eventually subsume the Acorn Medical Centre.

**Huntingdon Community Police** were represented by the Sector Commander and PC Clemi Yaxley, the Community Beat Manager who had recently taken over from PC Richard Carter, who had moved on. PC Yaxley said that she recognised that there were youth problems in Godmanchester, particularly related to under-aged alcohol and minor drug abuse. She was at pains to explain that the incidence of drug abuse among the youth was not a major problem. Her intention was to target those youths who were causing damage and being a general nuisance. Her approach would be to talk to the youth of the Town to try to ascertain what they wanted, e.g. a youth centre. She went on to say that such an approach would be high

visibility and she was empowered to confiscate alcohol. The Police had introduced a Guardian Awareness Programme in which questionnaires were sent to parents and guardians to try to ascertain whether they were aware of their children's activities. Questioned by Cllr BROWN, the Sector Commander admitted that he did not have as many officers as he would like but he was hoping to make better use of those he did have.

**Huntingdon Youth Centre, Detached Work Programme** was represented by Sharon McCrorie and Cherie Williamson. Ms McCrorie explained that monies for detached work had become available through the Community Safety Partnership and it had been decided to target the funding to Godmanchester. Funding for three detached workers to work two evenings per week in the town was available and work would begin in February. It would be an initial one evening a week until the third worker became available in March/April. The aim was to build a relationship with young people to identify their needs. They would carry out a period of reconnaissance to identify issues and areas where young people congregate, to liaise with local schools, the Town Council and the Police to identify the local situation and to develop a project. Questioned by Cllr Mrs MOORE, Ms McCrorie indicated that the initial training of youth workers was free and took about 8 months. There was lively discussion about the youth situation in the town and the Town Council was looking forward to a progress report in three or four months time.

### **03/002 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2002 were APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

### **03/003 MATTERS ARISING**

The Town Clerk reported that the Godmanchester Rovers Youth Football Club had now paid their outstanding fees.

The Senior Citizens Club had advised that there might be a delay in fitting the new carpet as the factory supplying it had been flooded.

### **03/004 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Town Clerk advised that the letter from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission merely sought to formalise an already existing situation in that the graves concerned were already tended by the St Mary's Mens' Group. The Town Clerk recommended that he sign the agreement on behalf of the Town Council. There were 5 graves involved and the Town Council would receive £5.00 per grave per annum for maintaining the grass area around each grave, which would be off-set against the quarterly payments made to the Mens' Group.  
APPROVED.

The Mayor advised that, notwithstanding the invitation, she would not be attending the Twinning Association International Youth Festival meeting in Szentendre.

### **03/005 ACCOUNTS**

The Town Clerk explained that the Huntingdon Constituency Conservative Association had had to cancel their booking for the use of QES on 5 January 2003. Accordingly, they had requested a refund of the fees, which they had paid in advance. The sum was £13.00. The Town Council APPROVED the refund.

There was to be a workshop for Burial Procedures on Saturday 8 February 2003 and the Town Clerk recommended that his assistant, Mrs Hakimi should attend as one of her duties was the administration of the town cemetery. The cost of the workshop was £30.00 and the Town Council APPROVED this expenditure.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that a cheque, serial number 102398 payable to Mr Gadenne for £9.75, dated 15 August 2002, had not been presented because Mr Gadenne said that he had not received it. The Town Clerk had written to the bank stopping payment on that cheque and asked the Town Council to approve the issue of a duplicate payment. APPROVED.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that Miss Jennifer Rea had pre-paid £44.00 for a party in QES on 18 January 2003 but had had to cancel. As she had given plenty of notice of cancellation it was recommended that she be refunded the fees. APPROVED.

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk asked that the draft audit submission for FY 01/02 be approved; copies had been sent to each Councillor as there had been no meeting of the Finance WP. APPROVED. The Mayor and the Town Clerk signed the final documents.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that the Town Office had experienced extremes of temperature during the recent cold snap and this had led to malfunctioning of the photocopier. He asked that the Town Council authorise the purchase of a heater, with thermostat and timer be purchased for the Town Office. There were a number of oil filled heaters with such devices available locally at around £90.00. The Town Council AUTHORISED the purchase of a heater at a cost not to exceed £100.00.

### **03/006 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.

### **03/007 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS**

Cllr VANE PERCY departed at 10.00pm.

**Flood Defences.** The WP had met on 6 January. Cllr Mrs HULL advised that she had received a questionnaire which needed to be completed and returned by 31 January 2003. She was collecting the information required for completion of the questionnaire and would be collating the results with the assistance of the Mayor. Additionally she had been in contact with Richard Preston, HDC Emergency Planning Officer, who had indicated that he would be willing to talk about flood defences to the Town Council. The preferred date for the Town Council was 13 February 2003 at 8.00pm in QES. The Town Clerk was to ascertain whether

the QES was available at that time. The next WP meeting would be 6 February 2003 at 8.00pm in QES.

Cllr ASHWORTH referred members of the Town Council to his letter to CCC concerning the recent flooding along Berry Lane. He said that CCC had agreed to carry out some work subject to an application being made to the Highways Minor Improvements department. Such an application needed to be submitted by the Town Council rather than an individual and he sought the meetings support. APPROVED.

Cllr BROWN departed at 10.20pm

**Alconbury Airport Consultation.** Cllr ASHWORTH advised the meeting that he had received a reply from Huntingdon MP, Jonathon Djanogly, acknowledging the Town Councils concerns. He had also received a letter from Brampton Parish Council which supported the earlier correspondence sent out by this Town Council about the re-alignment of the A14. Finally he had also received a letter from GO-East which indicated that the decision on CHUMMS had been made and there was little chance of any change.

**Finance.** The Finance WP had not met but Cllr Mrs MOORE referred to the proposal from Electricity Direct, forwarded to her by the Town Clerk. After studying the proposal it was felt that any gains would be marginal and the recommendation was that the Town Council should stay with the present supplier. The Town Clerk was to write to Electricity Direct notifying them of the decision. AGREED. The next WP meeting would take place in March when the main subject for discussion would be the renewal of the Grounds Maintenance contract.

**Environment.** The Environment WP had not met but Cllr NORRIS informed the meeting that the footpath from the Chinese Bridge to Godmanchester Lock was in need of repair in three places and that he had contacted HDC who had agreed to look into the matter. Similarly he reported that the broken branches from some of the riverside trees had been cleared but that some of the poplar trees were in need of replacement and he was in contact on this matter with the HDC arboreal specialist. The next WP meeting would be in March, probably in conjunction with the Finance WP meeting.

**Property.** The Property WP had met on 6 January, primarily to discuss the “Godmanchester (Post Street) Conservation Area Character Statement” issued by HDC. A number of detailed observations had been made and the Town Clerk had passed the comments on to HDC. Cllr SURSHAM had received a quotation from Jacowe Joinery, the original suppliers, for the replacement of the skirting board and floor damaged when the roof of QES had leaked. The quotation was for £192.00 plus VAT. The Town Council APPROVED this expenditure.

**Judith’s Field.** Cllr GOFF announced that 2 applications for funding for additional lighting at Judith’s Field had been turned down. However, SITA had agreed to visit to assess the application and it was hoped that a decision would be known in March.

**NALC/CALC.** Cllr KYNOCH had attended a meeting at which the CCC budget had been discussed. The £20 million extra was not as it appeared at first glance. Government ceilings meant that they would only receive £10 million and various other requirements ate into that so that the net gain was only £2 million.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

The Town Clerk advised the Town Council that he was proceeding on holiday immediately following this meeting and would be back in the office on 27 January 2003. His assistant, Mrs Hakimi, would run the office in his absence. As there was a 5 week gap between meetings, the draft minutes would be submitted to the Mayor for approval on 28 January 2003.

Cllr Mrs HULL advised that the Community Primary School had advised her of problems they were experiencing with sewage backing up. Cllr WILSON advised her that the school should approach Anglian Water in the first instance.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2003.

The meeting ended 10.50 pm Town Mayor