

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 15 MAY 2003

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor  
Councillors D ASHWORTH, D BROWN, W D BUTTERWORTH, M COHEN, D COMBEN, A GOFF, Mrs H HULL, E KYNOCH, Mrs B MOORE, R NORRIS, A SURSHAM, G WILSON  
Town Clerk: A J WELTON  
Mace Bearer: M WILLIAMS

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C VANE PERCY

**PRESENT:** Rev B ATLING – Curate of St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester.

There was 1 member of the public present.

**OUTGOING TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 5 occasions since the last meeting.

The celebrations commemorating the 400th anniversary of the progress of King James I through Godmanchester, including a visit from HRH The Duke of Gloucester, had been a great success. The Mayor gratefully acknowledged the help and participation of the many members of the community and said it had been evident that the children had enjoyed themselves.

The Mayor's Charity Ball had been extremely well attended and had raised £400.00 for each of the two charities that she was supporting this year.

The Mayor thanked all the Councillors for their assistance during the past year. In particular she expressed her gratitude to the retiring Deputy Mayor, in his absence, for his support.

**03/033 INAUGURATION OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2003/2004**

Councillor Mrs A M LOOKER, having been duly re-elected to the office of the Town Mayor of Godmanchester at the Godmanchester Town Council Meeting on the 17th April 2003, made and signed the formal declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Town Clerk.

She thanked the Town Council for its vote of confidence and said she considered it a privilege and honour to serve as Town Mayor.

**03/034 INAUGURATION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2003/2004**

Councillor W D BUTTERWORTH, having been duly elected to the office of the Deputy Town Mayor of Godmanchester at the Godmanchester Town Council Meeting on the 17th April 2003, made and signed the formal declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Town Clerk.

The Mayor then asked the Reverend Brian Atling to lead the Council in prayers for the Town, the Mayor, Councillors and the Queen.

### **03/035 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 April 2003 were APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

### **03/036 MATTERS ARISING**

The Outstanding Actions List dated 15 May 2003 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).

**03/021 Judith's Field.** The funding had been received from the Community Safety Partnership and the lighting engineer had advised that tenders for the work had been received and were being evaluated. Whilst on the matter of Judith's Field, Cllr GOFF advised the meeting that vandals had struck again. The door to the referee's dressing room had been broken in. The Town Clerk had taken steps to effect a repair but Cllr GOFF suggested that, as this was the only door that had not been protected by a metal grille when the rest of the building had been upgraded, it would be appropriate to rectify that omission as soon as possible. He proposed approaching the original contractor, B E Welding, to manufacture and install a grille for this door. At a rough estimate he recommended that the Town Council approve £350.00 for this work. APPROVED. Town Clerk's Note: The subsequent estimate for the work by B E Welding was £380.00 plus VAT.

**03/025 Appointment of new Governor for St Anne's Church of England Primary School.** The Town Clerk had advised the school of the appointment of Cllr BUTTERWORTH and he, in turn, had received information on his role from the school.

**03/032 WP Reports – Cemetery.** The Town Clerk had written to the Highways Department concerning car park specifications and was awaiting a reply.

**Any Other Business.** The Town Clerk had written to HDC concerning the state of the Ouse Valley Way footpath and was awaiting a reply.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the item in bold type on the "Outstanding Actions List". Due to a number of oversights, a review of the lease of the Town Hall had not taken place. As the lease was imminently due for renewal, it was DECIDED that a small WP be authorised to review the lease. The WP would consist of the Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and the Town Clerk. The Town Council APPROVED the allocation of £300.00 in legal fees as a contingency. It was suggested by Cllr KYNOCH that consideration should be given to the installation of a hearing aid loop in the main hall. He said that the cost would be somewhere in the region of £100.00. The suggestion was APPROVED and the Town Clerk was to investigate the cost of purchase and installation. The Town Clerk was also to investigate with CALC what obligations the Town Council had in providing disability facilities in the buildings run by the Town Council.

### **03/037 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Town Clerk was to reply to Mrs Goodliff's letter about her concerns that the support received for the Twinning Cultural Experience could have been better.

The Town Clerk was to reply to the letter from the Godmanchester Community Association confirming that extra toilets could be installed on School Hill in support of Picnic in the Park 2003.

The letter from Mr Geza Joo requesting financial support for river safety equipment in Szentendre was discussed. The Town Clerk was to reply indicating that, in this instance, Godmanchester was unable to provide financial support.

Letters from HGTA and various extracts from the Cambridge Evening News were referred to a Working Party to consider appropriate action.

Having received a formal letter of resignation from Mr Stephen Spencer, the previous Deputy Town Mayor, it was AGREED that the Town Clerk would respond with a formal letter of thanks from the Town Council.

In response to the letter from CCC concerning the Huntingdon & Godmanchester Transport Strategy, the Town Clerk was instructed to invite Mr Hames to address a meeting in the Town Hall on either 22nd or 29th May. Town Clerk's Note: Mr Hames was unable to attend on either date due to other commitments.

Having received an estimate for central heating work to be carried out in QES from Mr S O'Connor. The Town Clerk was instructed to ascertain from Mr O'Connor that his suggested solution was viable. On receiving such an assurance it was AGREED that the estimate should be accepted.

### **03/038 ACCOUNTS**

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

### **03/039 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 Mrs HULL arrived at 8.25pm.

### **03/040 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS**

**Alconbury Airport Consultation.** A WP had not had the necessity to meet.

**A14 Re-alignment.** Cllr ASHWORTH agreed to co-ordinate an evening meeting on this subject.

**Flood Defences.** Cllr Mrs HULL advised that she was in touch with the flood warnings capital project leader, who had intimated that the Environment Agency was beginning to examine the proposals but that nothing was likely to begin until 2005/6 or 2006/7.

**Finance.** The WP had not met.

**Environment.** Cllr NORRIS advised that the Town Council had received an estimate from Burleigh Contractors for the cost of removing the broken branches from the trees on the Recreation Ground in the sum of £280.00 plus VAT. The Town Council APPROVED that sum and the Town Clerk was instructed to confirm the decision to the contractor.

Having received a letter from Fergusons, the grounds maintenance contractors, concerning the hanging baskets on the Town Bridge, the Town Clerk was to query the cost, which appeared to have increased by 50%.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm to allow questions from the public.

District Councillor Dr C W Looker offered his congratulations to the Mayor upon her re-election and wished her well. He then took the opportunity to update the Town Council on matters of moment. He advised that yet another amended planning application for the Roman Way development was imminent. He went on to say that there was soon to be a district-wide special edition of a document, consulting the public on important issues in local planning. He also indicated that consultation on traffic calming measures for Godmanchester would probably take place in October 2003.

Asked by Cllr WILSON about S106 agreements specific to the Roman Way development, District Cllr Looker replied that he was not sure of all the details but assured Cllr WILSON that a contribution towards both education and transport was being sought.

The meeting resumed at 9.15pm.

Cllr BROWN said that he applauded the presence of the District Cllr and proffered his thanks. The Town Council ENDORSED the sentiment.

Cllr COMBEN advised that he had referred the matter of the Monks Pit public inquiry to the Open Spaces Society, who in turn had referred it to the Ramblers Association local lawyer. The local lawyer had passed the matter to the Ramblers Association central office lawyer to establish whether it would be possible to establish new case law.

**Property/Judith's Field.** There was nothing to report from the Property WP and matters concerning Judith's Field had been dealt with earlier.

**Cemetery.** Cllr COHEN told the meeting that he had received complaints that children were playing in the Cemetery. With reference to the Garden of Remembrance, he indicated that he and Cllr COMBEN would confer on future development. Cllr COHEN asked the Town Clerk to provide him with the specification for the grounds maintenance contract specific to the Cemetery. He also indicated that he would provide the Town Clerk with a draft of a letter to be sent to relatives advising that Fergusons would be instructed to carry out the completion of the "lawning" of the Cemetery.

There had been a number of instances where private vehicles had driven to the graves. Similarly, dogs were being exercised in the Cemetery grounds. Cllr COHEN produced designs for appropriate signs to be affixed to the walls at the entrance to the Cemetery. The meeting APPROVED the manufacture and siting of the signs.

Following some discussion it was DECIDED that the Town Clerk would write to all undertakers advising them that it would be the gravedigger's responsibility to remove surplus spoil from the Cemetery. Any concomitant costs should be charged to the relatives.

Following discussion about the churchyard and, in particular, the non-conformist burial ground, Cllr COHEN advised that, in the event that maintenance of the churchyard passed to the Town Council, the Town Council would automatically assume responsibility for any insecure headstones.

### **Other Representative Groups/Twinning.**

**Youth Matters.** Cllr Mrs HULL advised that Detached Youth Work Initiatives had now started with one session per week taking place. There was a problem with recruiting youth workers. She further advised that money was now allocated for a summer youth scheme.

The Mayor reported that she had been advised by Cherie Williamson that the football project would have to cease from 19 May because of the lack of supervisors. The Mayor was investigating the availability of volunteers to take over the supervision. The Town Council was to do everything possible to promote this initiative.

The Mayor also advised that she had received an appeal from the youth of the town for a shelter to be erected in the Recreation Area, along the lines of the one recently constructed in Brampton. The Mayor undertook to write a response to the appeal for publication in the local press.

It was AGREED that a small Working Party would be formed to discuss the provision of a shelter. Cllr Mrs HULL would chair the meeting and Cllrs Mrs MOORE, BROWN and GOFF indicated that they would attend. Town Clerk's Note. Cllr Mrs HULL has booked the hall at Judith's Field for Tuesday 27 May 2003 starting at 8.00pm.

Cllr COMBEN left the meeting at 10.30pm.

**Twinning.** Following exchanges between HGTA and the Town Councils, it was decided that attempts should be made to defuse the situation. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor would attend the AGM and put the points of view of GMC Town Council.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Cllr BROWN had been examining the Earning Street Conservation Character Statement produced by HDC and expressed his praise for the standard of the publication. Cllr SURSHAM endorsed the sentiment and the Town Clerk was asked to write to HDC recording the commendation of the Town Council for the excellence of the research and standard of production of the document.

The Town Clerk was to write to the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership to ask that Godmanchester Town Council be included in their mailing list as a number of activities concerning Godmanchester appeared to be being discussed without any input from the Town.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2003.

The meeting ended at 10.50pm Town Mayor