

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2011

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor
Councillors: Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor), D BROWN, R BUTCHER, Mrs J FLETCHER,
CLLR HYAMS, A MARTIN, N PAULEY, C RICHARDSON, D TAYLOR, N WELLS,
G WILSON, Mrs S WILSON,

Town Clerk: Mrs M LIDDIARD

6 members of the public were in attendance

ACTION

11/016 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

CLLR Mrs HULL: prior engagement; CLLR Ms MACLEOD: illness; CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: family illness.
CLLR VANE PERCY: Absent

11/017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLR Mrs S WILSON: member of GMCiB and personal interest in EA matters as her husband works for EA. CLLR G WILSON: matters relating to EA as he is employed by EA. CLLR RICHARDSON: Roman Way Planning matter (home address in Roman Way).

11/018 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2011 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

11/019 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

Peta Denham on behalf of the EA confirmed the funding for the proposed Godmanchester Flood Alleviation Scheme would not be available as a result of Government cuts and there would be no funding allocation in the next four years to 2014. She confirmed the EA were exploring other funding opportunities with District and County Councils and were continuing to pursue approval of the planning application for the scheme with HDC. At this stage the EA were reluctant to tackle individual elements or “packages” from the overall scheme as this would achieve very little reduction in the flood risk, however it was confirmed that the dredging of Cook’s Stream would be the first thing to be addressed.

Mrs D’Agnello wanted to speak on issues relating to Jack & Jill. She complained about the cleanliness of the building.

Mr Kynoch expressed his concern about the proposed removal of a large oak tree on the river frontage as part of the proposed flood alleviation scheme and HDC’s insistence to date that it should not be removed.

THE MAYOR drew the numbers for the 800 club monthly draw.

11/020 TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the town on 5 occasions since the last meeting, the DEPUTY MAYOR had represented the town on 1 occasion.

THE MAYOR confirmed that an extra ordinary Town Council meeting would be held on 22nd February in the QES starting at 7.30pm, to discuss the terms for managing the public conveniences in Godmanchester.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR advised the next Open Meeting would take place at Judith's Field on Saturday 26th February. ALL Cllrs were invited to attend to meet members of the public in an informal setting.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reminded Cllrs that the cut-off date for RSVPs for the Mayor's Charity Ball was 28th February.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR suggested thought should be given to the next Town Council newsletter to be distributed in late March, with the Annual Report being prepared and distributed at the end of April before the Annual Town Meeting. All articles to the Town Office in the first instance please.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR advised the last photograph of the Town Council had been taken 2 years ago and some of the personnel had changed. He suggested a new photograph or photographs should be arranged in the coming month.

Town Clerk

11/021 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:

An updated schedule of outstanding matters was presented to the Town Council.

11/022 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE BETWEEN GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL AND JACK & JILL PRESCHOOL

As noted in the January minutes, the Town Council had agreed in principle to enter into a rental agreement with Jack & Jill preschool. Mrs D'Agnello had forwarded a copy of a draft occupational license, drawn up by ACRE which would be used as a starting point and CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON and the Town Clerk would be meeting a solicitor the following day to discuss the matter. It was confirmed that the lease between the Executors of Mr R W Looker and the Town Council prohibited the Town Council from sub-letting in any way and therefore legal advice was needed in this matter. Mrs D'Agnello was asked to provide details of the hours of use and area to be used by Jack & Jill preschool which would be required for the agreement.

Cllr Worthington/
Town Clerk

11/023 CLLR RESPONSIBILITIES

The list of Cllrs responsibilities or portfolios was reviewed. Town Clerk would forward an amended list to all.

Town Clerk

11/024 CYCLE ROUTES

CLLR TAYLOR had presented his recommendations for consideration. Following discussion on the four proposals, it was AGREED to write to Emma Murden asking for the following improvements to cycle paths and routes.

Town Clerk

- Footpath on London Road (left hand side from town centre) starting after house 33 and after the side road off London Road, with house no 45 at right angle to the path, as far as Tudor Road to link with the existing dual pathway.
- To continue the existing dual use pathway (referred to above) on London Road, starting opposite St Anne's School as far as the entrance to Judith's Field Recreation Area.
- The pathway on Cambridge Road (left hand side from town centre) starting at the bus lay by and after house no 26 along to the entrance to Cow Lane. CLLR PAULEY voted against this proposal.

Cllr Hyams arrived at 8.28pm

11/025 REPORT FROM FINANCE WORKING PARTY

11/025.1 The report from the Finance working party was received and noted. Details of outstanding S106 monies would be forwarded to all Cllrs once available.

Town Clerk

11/025.2 The report from the Internal Auditor was received and noted. The check list to be used by Cllrs signing cheques on behalf of the Town Council was APPROVED for immediate use. With minor amendments, the updated list of current suppliers was APPROVED.

11/025.3 The amendments to the Financial Regulations were noted and the amended copy of the Financial Regulations dated February 2011 was APPROVED.

11/025.4 The amendments to the Grant Awarding Policy were noted and the amended copy of the Grant Awarding Policy dated February 2011 was APPROVED.

The Town Clerk was commended for her work on these items.

11/026 HIGHWAYS/TRAFFIC ORDERS

CLLR PAULEY expressed his concern that a bollard had been installed at the junction of Anderson Crescent, by the Highways Division, as buses had been “cutting the corner” and had damaged the verge and kerb. The Town Council had not been consulted or advised of this work at any time and it seemed the two County Councillors for Godmanchester had also not been kept advised of this matter. Town Clerk confirmed the Highways Supervisor for the area would keep us advised of any planned or scheduled works in future.

11/027 CORRESPONDENCE

CLLR WILSON confirmed the public conveniences would be subject to a rates demand from 1st April 2011.

Town Clerk would write to thank Ms Denham and Mr Hesp for attending the Town Council meeting and to ask for a statement to be made by the EA to clarify the position for householders in relation to insurance issues and to provide contact details for any queries.

Town Clerk

11/028 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS

11/028.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved. The new check-list would be used by the two Cllrs signing cheques.

11/028.2 Councillors received a copy of monthly salary information, the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 17th February 2011, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation as verified by THE MAYOR.

11/028.3 The Election Manager at HDC had written seeking a reduction in the proposed charges for hire of the QES for Polling Day on 6th May.

Cllr Hyams, having declared an interest, left the room.

It was AGREED that the charges had been based on all previous years bookings undertaken by HDC and a reduction in costs would not be offered. Town Clerk would confirm this with HDC. CLLR PAULEY asked that his vote against this decision be recorded

Town Clerk

Cllr Hyams returned to the room.

11/028.4 It was AGREED to undertake a one-off spring clean at Judith's Field . Costs were anticipated to be £60 which were APPROVED.

Town Clerk

11/029 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix C were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

Cllr Wells

CLLR WELLS would respond to the questionnaire on the DPD: Draft Scoping Report on line.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLLR RICHARDSON reported he had been impressed by the franchisee taking over at Hinchbrook.

Cllr Fletcher/
All Cllrs

CLLR Mrs FLETCHER confirmed a Personnel working party would be held within the next week. Details to be forwarded to all Cllrs.

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON had confirmed via an update provided to the meeting that the closing date for receipt of tenders for the MUGA was Monday 21st February. A working party to discuss the tenders received would be held on Friday 25th February and a recommendation would be put before the Town Council at the March meeting.

All Cllrs

CLLR HYAMS advised HDC would be looking at the open spaces strategy and writing to the Town Council to discuss possible economies for areas of land in Godmanchester

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND
FEBRUARY 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL.**

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

Mayor