

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

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor
Councillors: R BUTCHER; R COXHEAD; P GODLEY; Ms J MacLEOD; Ms D MIDDLETON;; C RICHARDSON; D TAYLOR; D UNDERWOOD; C VANE PERCY; N WELLS;

Town Clerk: Mrs M LIDDIARD
Mace Bearer: Mr M WILLIAMS

3 members of the public were in attendance

11/163 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor): holiday; CLLR MARTIN: holiday; CLLR PAULEY: medical reasons; CLLR WILSON: holiday; CLLR Mrs WILSON: holiday.

11/164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: Friend of employee of Wood Green.

11/165 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2011 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record. The Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 1st November 2011 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

11/166 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr Thackray addressed the Town Council regarding Godmanchester in Bloom. He confirmed the excellent results achieved in this year's competition and confirmed GMCiB were looking to achieve the Gold award in 2012. Mr Thackray outlined some of the activities planned and thanked the Town Council for their continued support.

The monthly draw of the 800 club took place.

11/167 PRESENTATION FROM ANDY MOFFAT, PLANNING DEPARTMENT, HDC

Mr Moffat had been invited to confirm Huntingdonshire District Council's policy regarding sub division of existing dwellings. He advised that HDC supported the erection of new dwellings in principle but consideration would be given to each application in respect of the visual impact, the parking provision and character of the area. They would also consider any harm which might be caused if planning permission were not given. Mr Moffat requested that should the Town Council have concerns about a proposal being out of character, or if they considered it would constitute over development of the site that they provided more evidence and explanation and quantified their comments wherever possible.

Mr Moffat also indicated that the Local Development Framework would be re-examined over the next 18 months to 2 years. Following questions from CLRs, he also confirmed that changes were being made next year to S106 funding. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was being introduced which would affect all developments, including those currently too small to attract a S106 contribution. A meaningful proportion would be directed to town or parish councils and these contributions would not have the same limitations as the S106 funding.

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions on these matters and Mr Moffat was thanked for attending the meeting and for the advice and information he had provided.

11/168 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 11/168 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to CCC to confirm the Town Council's support for the Sustrans cycle route.

Town Clerk

11/169 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Town Council, THE MAYOR offered CLLR WELLS sympathy on the recent death of his mother.

THE MAYOR offered his best wishes to CLLR PAULEY who was undergoing surgery the following day.

THE MAYOR thanked those Cllrs who had attended the Remembrance Day Services at the War Memorial and at St Mary the Virgin in the evening.

THE MAYOR thanked CLLR BUTCHER for organising a successful litter pick and he thanked those Cllrs who had taken part.

THE MAYOR advised he had represented the town on 12 occasions since the last meeting.

The MAYOR confirmed that the Town Clerk and Town Clerk's Assistant would be taking days off, but the office would remain manned. THE MAYOR reminded all Cllrs that the office was closed to members of the public and also to Cllrs on Mondays, unless an appointment had been made.

All Cllrs

11/170 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

CLLR GODLEY confirmed that there a few blank areas on the website which were waiting for some text and pictures to be provided. A list would be emailed to all Cllrs with a suggestion of who could provide the details. Please provide the information to CLLR GODLEY as soon as possible.

Town Clerk/
Cllrs

11/171 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

A report was presented on outstanding matters.

CLLR TAYLOR reminded Cllrs that a Health & Safety working party would take place on 24th November. All invited to attend.

All Cllrs

11/172 CORRESPONDENCE

CLLR TAYLOR confirmed that the Town Clerk would seek clarification on a number of points contained in the recent inspection of play areas, which had been provided by Fenland Leisure Ltd.

Town Clerk

11/173 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

11/173.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 11/173.1 was APPROVED.

11/173.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 17th November 2011, a copy of salary payments, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation which had been verified by THE MAYOR. CLLR BUTCHER asked for clarification on items shown on the monthly budget report. Town Clerk would check main copy and provide information directly to CLLR BUTCHER.

Town Clerk

11/173.3 A report from the Finance Working Party was received and noted. A further Finance Working Party would take place on 6th December.

All Cllrs

11/174 COUNCILLOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

CLLR COXHEAD submitted a proposal for setting up working groups and committees to focus on key issues. The proposal would also introduce a timetable of regular working party meetings to run in conjunction with the main Town Council meetings. Cllrs were asked to feed their comments and suggestions to CLLR COXHEAD so that this issue could be developed.

All Cllrs

11/175 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

11/175.1 MUGA WORKING PARTY: A report was received and noted. It was AGREED that the cheque to PPL drawn in October 2011 but not sent, would be destroyed and a cheque in the sum of £60,000 would be drawn and signed immediately, which would mean the Town Council held a

retainer of £2211 +VAT to be paid after the line markings are successfully applied. A further invoice in respect of the line marking is also expected. It was AGREED that the working party would be dissolved as a natural break had arisen and outstanding matters would be added to the Town Clerk's report on outstanding matters. It was AGREED that the remaining S106 funding of approximately £1k be used up this tax year on maintenance of play facilities. It was AGREED that the £16k set aside by the Town Council to deliver facilities aimed at 12-17 year olds to replace the vandalised skatepark be ring-fenced but the scope be widened and the sum put towards delivery of new/improved wider leisure facilities managed by the Town Council. The first consideration would be floodlighting for the MUGA.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: It was resolved that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

11/175.2 A report from the Personnel working party was received and noted. CLLR UNDERWOOD asked that thanks to the Town Clerk and the Town Clerk's Assistant is recorded for the inordinate amount of work they had undertaken in connection with on-going personnel matters.

The aims and aspirations of the Town Council as an employer were AGREED. It was AGREED that the revised job description for the Assistant to the Town Clerk, would be amended and brought back to the Town Council for approval in January. The Town Council noted the discussions about the structure of caretaking were on-going.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC. It was resolved that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 8th DECEMBER 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL

The meeting ended at 10.08pm

Mayor

Full copies of reports mentioned in the text above may be viewed in the Town Office.