

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2012

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor
Councillors: Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor); P GODLEY; Ms J MacLEOD; Ms D MIDDLETON; P MORGAN; C RICHARDSON; D TAYLOR; D UNDERWOOD; C VANE PERCY; N WELLS; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON

Town Clerk: Mrs M LIDDIARD
Mace Bearer: Mr F CARTER

2 members of the public were in attendance

12/019 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR BUTCHER: in hospital; CLLR COXHEAD: in hospital; CLLR PAULEY: just returned from hospital; CLLR MARTIN: holiday.

12/020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR RICHARDSON: resident of Roman Way, should erection of fence be discussed; CLLR Mrs WILSON: wife of employee of EA; CLLR WILSON: prejudicial interest in matters relating to EA as employed by EA; CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: planning application in respect of Wood Green as friends employed at Wood Green; CLLR MORGAN: items related to Flood Alleviation Scheme as property will be affected; CLLR VANE PERCY: items related to Flood Alleviation Scheme as property is in Post Street.

12/021 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2012 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

12/022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr Kynoch advised that a length of his neighbour's wall had fallen into the river and he considered that the EA were responsible.
The draw for the 800 club took place.

12/023 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR confirmed current health status for CLLR BUTCHER, CLLR COXHEAD, and CLLR PAULEY. Get Well cards would be signed by all present and hand delivered by the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk

THE MAYOR advised he had represented the town on 3 occasions since the last meeting. THE MAYOR asked those Cllrs able to attend the Anglia in Bloom launch on 1st March to come to the Town Hall at 10.30am.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR confirmed the Town Clerk would be on holiday from 27 February for a week. It was requested that contact with the Town Office be kept to a minimum.

THE MAYOR reminded all Cllrs to RSVP to the invitation to attend the Charity Ball on 23rd March, whether they were able to attend or not. Donations to his chosen charities or donations of raffle prizes would be welcome.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reminded all Chairs of working parties that their reports for the Annual Meeting would be required by the end of March.

Chairs of WPs

THE MAYOR thanked CLLR Ms MIDDLETON and CLLR GODLEY for putting together the Spring Newsletter. All Cllrs would be asked to distribute the newsletter at the end of February.

All Cllrs

12/024 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk confirmed a response from NALC in respect of our queries relating to finances for the Flood Alleviation Scheme had been received, but after the cut-off for consideration at the February meeting. The matter would be discussed at the March Town Council meeting.

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON confirmed that the Co-op mini-market had not yet auctioned or raffled the signed shirt from Darren Bent donated to the Co-op by the Town Council. She would liaise further with the Manager.

Cllr Middleton

The Town Clerk confirmed the insurance matters in respect of the swings in Queen's Walk had been closed and replacement swings would be installed during the first week in March.

CLLR Mrs WILSON confirmed CCC had been advised that the SLA would not be renewed at the end of March. She would hold a working party to discuss the way forward.

Cllr S Wilson

12/024.1 CLLR Ms MIDDLETON had circulated further information on the proposal to theme Open Meetings. All Cllrs were asked to respond. Town Clerk would confirm with HDC Democratic Services restrictions in holding meetings during the period of purdah as this could affect proposed open meetings, the April Town Council meeting and the Annual Town Meeting.

All Cllrs
Town Clerk

12/025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 12/025 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations. It was noted that planning permission had been given for erection of the Town Sign.

Town Clerk

12/026 CORRESPONDENCE

CLLR TAYLOR confirmed he had attended the last inspection of play equipment carried out by FLP and was impressed to note that minor adjustments etc were carried out by the inspector during the inspection. He recommended that FLP be appointed for a further year to carry out quarterly inspections. This was AGREED.

Town Clerk

CLLR WILSON confirmed HDC had acknowledged and confirmed the Town Council's precept request.

GMCCA had requested use of Buttermel Meadow for parking purposes for a 2012 event. Following discussion, it was AGREED that the meadow was not suitable for parking and the Town Clerk would respond suggesting possible alternative parking.

Town Clerk

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON confirmed a further meeting would be held with Jack & Jill to discuss proposed rent increases and licence requirements.

Cllr Worthington/
Cllr Underwood

12/027 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

12/027.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 12/027.1 was APPROVED. The payment for British Gas 3* contract was not approved and the contract would be cancelled and Town Clerk would arrange for annual checks to be carried out.

Town Clerk

12/027.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 16th February 2012, a copy of salary payments, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation and a copy of the quarterly bank reconciliation. It was noted that caretakers had received backdated pay following the increase of the National Minimum Wage from 1 October 2011.

12/028 HUNTINGDON & GODMANCHESTER MARKET TOWN TRANSPORT STRATEGY

CLLR WILSON confirmed the H&G Market Town Strategy meeting had been held and had looked at issues relating to traffic problems, cycle ways, and public transport. Further meetings would be held.

12/029 DOG FOULING

CLLR UNDERWOOD reported an increase in concern regarding dog fouling. CLLR GODLEY confirmed that if there were areas of particular concern, HDC would send the operations team to clear up. CLLR UNDERWOOD to liaise with CLLR GODLEY to progress this matter.

CLlr Underwood/
CLlr Godley

12/030 SPRING NEWSLETTER/ANNUAL REPORT

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON asked for feedback on the draft Spring Newsletter to be provided by 19th February so that CLLR GODLEY could put the articles into pdf format.

All Cllrs

The format and proposed articles for the Annual Report were APPROVED.

12/031 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

12/031.1 CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON apologised for not producing a Property Working Party report. She confirmed she would meet with CLLR VANE PERCY and present details of the way forward at the next meeting. Town Clerk would hasten the Conservation Officer for up to date information.

CLlr Worthington/
CLlr Vane Percy

Town Clerk

12/031.2 CLLR UNDERWOOD confirmed the personnel issues were on-going. A report was received and noted and it was AGREED that a review of the pay and conditions of Council employees would be undertaken for completion by September 2012.

CLlr Underwood

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 15th MARCH 2012 IN THE TOWN HALL

The meeting ended at 09.38pm

Mayor

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