

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE**  
**TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013**

PRESENT: C VANE PERCY: Town Mayor; D UNDERWOOD: Deputy Mayor;  
Councillors: R BUTCHER; M COHEN; Mrs S CONBOY; Ms L COPPER; P GODLEY; Ms L KADIC; Ms J  
MACLEOD; P MORGAN; N PAULEY; D TAYLOR; N WELLS; A WELTON; Mrs S  
WORTHINGTON

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

2 members of the public were in attendance

**ACTION**

**13/032 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

CLLR G WILSON: holiday; CLLR Mrs S WILSON: holiday.

**CLLR Ms COPPER arrived at 7.35pm**

**13/033 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor reminded all present of procedure for evacuation in an emergency.  
CLLR TAYLOR declared an interest in grant applications submitted by the Baptist  
Church and advised he would withdraw during discussions on all grant  
applications.

**13/034 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21<sup>ST</sup> February 2013 were duly  
APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

**13/035 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mr Doherty asked again that the Town Council consider provision of a disabled  
parking bay on the Town Hall car park which he stated would be of great value to  
disabled people in the town.

Mr Doherty advised that in the past an extensive programme of work had been  
undertaken in the Town Hall to combat dry rot and he hoped the current work  
mentioned was not a further reoccurrence.

Mr Doherty commented on the section of the river bank on the Recreation  
Ground which had collapsed into the river. The Town Clerk confirmed HDC had  
been requested to undertake repairs as the Riparian Land Owners of the river  
bank.

The Mayor drew the numbers for the 800 Club. Mr Hooker confirmed that funds  
raised in excess of the prize money would be donated to good causes as  
nominated by 800 club members.

### **13/036 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THE MAYOR advised he had represented the Town on 3 occasions since the last meeting.

THE MAYOR confirmed the formal signing of the Twinning Charter between Godmanchester and Gubbio would take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Town Mayors from Gubbio, Wertheim, and Huntingdon would be present and THE MAYOR asked that Godmanchester Cllrs show their support by attending this event.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR confirmed that nomination forms for 2013/14 Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had been provided. They should be returned to the Town Clerk by 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reminded chairs of working parties that reports for presentation at the Annual Town Meeting, should be given to the Town Clerk by 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Chairs of WPs

THE MAYOR advised that the Town Clerk would be preparing the Annual Report for 2012/13 which would need to go to print before the next Town Council meeting. Cllrs were advised that the report would follow the same format as previous years, and they would be kept informed of all content, but in view of the timescale involved to ensure printing, delivery to the Town Office and onward delivery by Cllrs to residents prior to the Annual Town Meeting, it was AGREED that the report would be prepared and content approved prior to the next Town Council meeting.

Town Clerk

THE MAYOR reminded all Cllrs that the Annual Litter Pick would take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. All to meet at the Town Hall at 10am.

All Cllrs

### **13/037 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING**

13.037.1 CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON presented a report relating to the charging policy for Friends of the QES/Porch Museum. It was noted that the Porch Museum was part of the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School. Following discussion it was AGREED that the Friends of the QES would be permitted six without-charge bookings of the QES and would further be permitted to use the QES on Bank Holiday Mondays, also without-charge in a calendar year. Any other bookings would be chargeable at the usual rates. It was AGREED that the three bookings which had already taken place this year would not be included, as a gesture of good will. As the constitution of the Friends of the QES provided the right for a member of the Town Council to be on the management committee, it was AGREED that this right would be exercised and CLLR VANE PERCY AGREED to represent Godmanchester Town Council. Town Clerk would write to confirm these arrangements and to request a copy of the past three years accounts.

Town Clerk

### **13/038 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 13/038 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

The Town Council were made aware of comments from Mr Reynolds relating to a

planning application discussed at the previous meeting. Mr Reynolds was concerned that the Town Council had made a decision and advised HDC before the end of the consultation period. Town Clerk would respond to Mr Reynolds.

Town Clerk

CLLR BUTCHER confirmed Mr Looker had confirmed the boundary for Judith's Field did not include the ditch between the field and Roman Way. CLLR BUTCHER advised he would hold an onsite working party meeting to review maintenance of Judith's Field in the near future.

Cllr Butcher/  
All Cllrs

### **13/039 CORRESPONDENCE**

CLLR COHEN advised a resident had made a request to scatter ashes at the London Road Cemetery. It was AGREED that it would not be appropriate to scatter ashes in the lawned part of the cemetery and the Town Office would liaise with the resident to resolve the matter.

CLLR UNDERWOOD reported that Mr Coxhead had suggested that the Town Council consider appointing Town Wardens. This would be considered by the working party looking into preparation of a Town Plan.

### **13/040 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS**

13/040.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 13/040.1 was APPROVED.  
13/040.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, a copy of salary payments, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation as verified by THE MAYOR, which were noted.

13/040.3 The Town Clerk advised a quote had been received from Zurich for the annual insurance premium. It was AGREED that further quotes should be obtained.

Town Clerk

### **13/041 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Town Council considered the applications received in respect of grants and approved payments as per the attached schedule. Cheques would be drawn and signed at the meeting.

Town Clerk

### **13/042 BMX TRACK**

CLLR TAYLOR presented a report and recommendation in respect of refurbishment of the existing BMX track at Judith's Field. It was AGREED further comparable quotations would be sought and the matter carried forward to the next meeting.

Cllr Taylor

### **13/043 FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME: PUBLIC REALM AREAS**

CLLR WELLS presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED that the Town Council would not take responsibility for any part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme until 3 years had lapsed to allow for any teething problems to be resolved. The following recommendations were AGREED:

- the slipway at the South Causeway to be improved by provision of hardcore
- the tree stump growing from the wall at the slipway to be removed and

the wall repaired and rendered

- the hard paved path at the rear of the South Causeway was not required and the area should remain just grass as it was felt that it would continue to provide adequate disabled access to the area
- subject to advice from the Conservation Officer, evergreen shrubs should be provided in front of the wall at 1B The Causeway rather than a park style flower bed
- the tree shown on the EA plans for the South Causeway was not required as it would obscure the Town Sign
- location of the benches to be returned to the South Causeway to be agreed upon completion of all other landscaping works.
- a litter bin rather than a planter was preferred for the area at the North Causeway

The Town Clerk would confirm these recommendations in writing to the EA. It was further AGREED that the Town Clerk would ask for copies of the plans for the Mill Yard area which the Town Council would review.

Town Clerk

### **13/044 TWINNING WITH GUBBIO**

CLLR UNDERWOOD presented a report confirming arrangements for the weekend signing of the Twinning Charter, the contents of which were noted.

All Cllrs

### **THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013 IN THE TOWN HALL**

The meeting ended at 10.32pm

Mayor

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