

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: D UNDERWOOD: Town Mayor;
Councillors: P MORGAN (Deputy Mayor) G CAMPBELL; M COHEN; Mrs S CONBOY; R COXHEAD; P
GODLEY; Ms J MACLEOD; P MALLEY; A McINNES; N PAULEY; Ms K SPOWART; D TAYLOR;
C VANE PERCY; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON; Mrs S WORTHINGTON

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

The Deputy Town Clerk and 27 member of the public were in attendance

15/192 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

All present.

15/193 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR MALLEY: planning applications Corpus Christi Lane and 51 London Street; CLLR
COXHEAD: item on new primary school as he is on Board of Directors; CLLR G WILSON:
School Governor of Godmanchester Academy school; CLLR MORGAN: planning application
for 42 West Street as neighbouring property to home address; CLLR UNDERWOOD: item on
new primary school as appointed as Chair of Governors.

15/194 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 were duly APPROVED and signed as a
complete and accurate record. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 were
duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

15/195 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The monthly draw for the 800 club took place.

THE MAYOR reassured those present that all correspondence sent to the Town Office had
been passed to all Cllrs for their information, including those items received after the
agenda was published.

Mr Thackray spoke about the proposed development at Corpus Christi Lane. He stated that
nothing had changed since previous planning applications had been put forward and this
application proposed even more properties which would bring with it several more vehicles.
Speaking on behalf of GMCiB he added the paddock was probably the last remaining in the
county and it added to the heritage of Godmanchester and should not be lost to a housing
development.

Ms Wilson expressed concerns for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists particularly at the
junction of Old Court Hall and Corpus Christi Lane which she considered dangerous already
but would become far more dangerous with additional cars in the area. She also stated she
was opposed the demolition of the wooden houses which were part of Godmanchester's
history.

Mr Mackie stated the entrance to Corpus Christi Lane from Old Court Hall was very narrow
and emergency vehicles may have difficulty getting into and out of the lane which would
put the safety of individuals at risk. The pavement across the entrance to Corpus Christi
Lane was already fully used and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists was the most
important factor to be considered.

Mr Brown raised concerns about parking issues for other nearby residents. He stated with additional traffic movements and possible changes to where residents in Old Court Hall could park, the parking issues would only get worse in the whole area. He also raised the question as to whether the development would qualify for S106 money.

Mr Malone pointed out that the application covered two separate issues. The first was the replacement of the existing houses, which had been considered in previously submitted applications, and permission had been refused, but the second issue was the expansion into the site of the paddock which had not been proposed before. The paddock was part of the conservation area and afforded heritage views and he considered the Town Council should recommend refusal.

15/196 PRESENTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF GODMANCHESTER BRIDGE ACADEMY

Mr Rowney from Keir Construction together with colleagues, presented an outline of the proposals for the Godmanchester Bridge Academy to the Town Council. The school building and grounds would be set in 3 tiers with the school at the front of the site and playing fields on higher tiers.

All classrooms would have north facing windows onto the playground which would provide lots of natural daylight but no solar glare and would have direct access to the playground. The school hall had been designed to be used as one large hall, or partitioned to provide two spaces and it was envisaged they would be used by the community outside school hours for a variety of activities and purposes. Materials used would meet the guidelines in the design code. The school was being built with capacity for a two form entry. A second floor featured a green roof which was a major sustainable design feature.

In the corner of the school site would be a stand-alone nursery with places for 52 children aged 2 – 4. It had not been established whether this would be run as part of the school or whether it would be managed privately.

Cllrs asked questions about community use of the sports areas; whether a 2 form entry would be sufficient to serve the number of children likely to be seeking places from the Bearscroft development; whether sufficient consideration had been given to the safety of parents and children when dropping off and collecting on the main road; access to the school site for those walking or cycling approaching from the south; and the possibility of noise travelling from the upper tier playing fields. The presenters answered these questions where details were known, and THE MAYOR thanked them for attending and confirmed if any further questions were raised, they would be passed to Mr Warsap, Head at Godmanchester Academy, for response.

15/197 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR advised that the Town Clerk would be on holiday for the next 2 weeks, and asked Cllrs not to over burden the Deputy Town Clerk in her absence. THE MAYOR was delighted to introduce Vicky Pryce, Deputy Town Clerk, to those present, and wished her well in her new appointment.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reported that following recent gale force winds, the damaged tree in the Mill Stream had been removed by the Environment Agency and HDC had removed a further damaged branch and removed all debris.

THE MAYOR thanked all those who had supported the recent Mayor's Charity Quiz.

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

THE MAYOR suggested it would be an appropriate gesture to write to the Mayor of Salon de Provence (twinned with Godmanchester) following the recent tragedy in Paris, to express

the Town Council's sympathy and concern over these recent events. It was AGREED the Mayor would write immediately.

Mayor

15/198 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

The report on matters arising was received and the contents noted.

CLLR COHEN confirmed the slide had now been installed in the Shrubland area.

CLLR S WILSON reported that Listed Building Consent in respect of the Town Hall alterations had been granted by HDC, according to the website. Formal notification awaited. CLLR CAMPBELL confirmed tenders for the work were due back on 1 December.

15.198.1 Christmas Market: CLLR CONBOY provided an update on the Christmas Market which would take place on 4 December. Volunteers were needed to marshal the event to ensure it ran safely. The 35ft Christmas Tree was in place and would be decorated on 22 November. 41 stalls had been confirmed and Fr Christmas and entertainment between 5pm and 8pm was arranged.

All Cllrs

15.198.2 Neighbourhood Plan: CLLR CONBOY confirmed a lot of activity had been continuing in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan. Further stakeholder meetings would take place on 20 and 21 November. The group were starting to write the first draft of the plan. Following a query from CLLR PAULEY, who considered a Neighbourhood Plan encouraged further housing development in the town, CLLR CONBOY confirmed the plan could not opt for less development than was already stated in the adopted local plan, but that it did not have to offer any additional development. This would be determined by responses from the residents.

15/199 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received was noted.

15/200 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 15/200 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

CLLR S WILSON outlined a full response to HDC in respect of the application for 20 dwellings in Corpus Christi Lane. CLLR PAULEY did not believe the Town Council had previously agreed for up to 10 properties on the site of the existing dwellings, which CLLR S WILSON had stated was part of the current HDC Local Plan. CLLR S WILSON would check the exact wording of the previous Local Plan consultations and subsequent Environmental Capacity Study to ensure correct wording was used in the formal response to HDC. CLLR G WILSON confirmed he was meeting an officer from CCC to discuss safety issues and access to Corpus Christi Lane on 23 November.

Cllr S Wilson

Cllr G Wilson

The Town Clerk would ensure a copy of the Town Council's response was put on the Town Council website and forwarded to all residents who had provided the Town Council with comments on the application.

Town Clerk

CLLR CAMPBELL will write to CCC in respect of the delays in carrying out the transport study in respect of the proposed Wyton development, asking for a clear update on the current position and timescales involved.

Cllr Campbell

15/201 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

15/201.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 15/201.1 was APPROVED.

15/201.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 19

November, a copy of salary payments, a copy of the budget report on the year to date and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation approved by the Deputy Mayor.

15/202 BUDGET PREPARATION AND PRECEPT FOR 2016/17

The Town Clerk presented a draft Budget using the information from meeting held on 22 October. Information was still needed for several budget lines and the Town Clerk confirmed the Town Council had to agree the level of precept at the Town Council meeting to be held on 10 December. Cllrs were asked to review this draft and provide additional information as a matter of urgency.

All Cllrs

15/203 JUDITH'S FIELD SHRUBLAND

CLLR COHEN presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED to purchase a concrete table tennis table at a cost of £1996 from Fenland Leisure Products.

Town Clerk

CLLR COHEN raised concerns about the safety of children and dogs within Judith's Field following removal of the hedgerow by contractors providing a footpath alongside the former hedgerow along the A1198. CLLR S WILSON would discuss this safety issue with the developer, David Wilson Homes, to see if they would put something in urgently to prevent any accidents occurring.

Cllr S Wilson

15/204 PROPERTY

THE MAYOR provided a brief update on the Mill Steps project. It has been agreed that further alternative quotes would be sought in respect of the feasibility study for the project. Two possible architects had declined to quote but costs were expected from a third architect.

CLLR CAMPBELL confirmed the new boiler had been installed in the Town Hall and 3 local builders had been approached to provide a tender for the alteration work. A recommendation would be made to the December Town Council meeting.

Property
Portfolio

CLLR CAMPBELL confirmed that the cost to deal with all issues in the QES: improvements to the kitchen, toilets, storeroom, ventilation, re-pointing outside of the building would be £200k including professional fees.

A further possibility was discussed to increase the space and facilities within the QES by taking two of the three public toilets out of service and using the space within the QES and providing one uni-sex public toilet on School Hill. It was AGREED in principle that this possibility should be explored and CLLR CAMPBELL would have initial discussions with HDC to understand the factors involved. It was AGREED that if the matter was to progress, full consultation with the public would take place before any final recommendations and decisions were made.

Cllr Campbell

It was AGREED to appoint Donald Insall (Architects) to provide drawings of how the additional space could be used within the QES. This would cost £1100 and these costs were AGREED.

Town Clerk

CLLR VANE PERCY left at 9.43pm

CLLR CAMPBELL suggested putting £50k in the budget for next year, with the remainder of the money being funded by grants, loan, and reserves. Future CIL money could be used over a number of years to repay the loan. As there was still a lot of work to do to prepare and agree the budget, it was AGREED these figures needed to be broken down and presented alongside other project costs at the next meeting.

Property
Portfolio

15/205 COUNCIL ELECTIONS PROPOSED VOTING CHANGES

CLLR SPOWART reported that HDC were reviewing the arrangements for District Council elections and were seeking views from parishes. Following a vote it was AGREED that Godmanchester Town Council supported leaving the current arrangements in place. CLLR SPOWART would respond to the consultation.

CLr Spowart

12/206 TOWN COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN

CLLR COXHEAD presented the updated copy of the Town Council Business Plan. He confirmed that in January and March 2016 more detail would be needed in order to start preparing information for the Annual Town Meeting and also the Town Council would need to start preparations on the Business Plan for 2016/17.

All Cllrs

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2015 IN THE TOWN HALL STARTING AT 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 21.52 pm

Mayor

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