

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 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;

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

No members of the public were in attendance

15/207 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR WORTHINGTON: holiday; CLLR S WILSON: holiday

15/208 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR VANE PERCY: planning application 15/02130/TREE; CLLR CAMPBELL: item 15/220 as
consultant a former business partner

15/209 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2015 were duly APPROVED and signed as
a complete and accurate record.

15/210 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Nothing raised.

15/211 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR advised had represented the town on 7 occasions since the last meeting.

THE MAYOR thanked everyone who had been involved in the recent Christmas Market
which had been a tremendous success. Particular thanks were given to CLLR CONBOY for
her tireless work to coordinate the event.

15/212 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

The report on matters arising was received and the contents noted. Town Clerk to add
Betts Close to schedule.

Town Clerk

CLLR SPOWART confirmed there had been a delay in progressing the project to provide hard
standing parking spaces at Betts Close but it was hoped the plans would be received by the
end of the year.

CLLR CONBOY reported that further stakeholder meetings on the Neighbourhood Plan had
taken place. CLLR COXHEAD commented that the sports clubs in the town were not
represented and CLLR CONBOY confirmed they had been invited to attend all stakeholder
meetings but had not engaged with the steering group or attended any meetings. CLLR
COXHEAD was tasked with getting a representative from each of the sporting clubs to
engage with the Neighbourhood Plan stakeholder group.

Cllr Coxhead

15/213 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received was noted.

CLLR TAYLOR reported a letter had been received from a child requesting provision of a skatepark in Godmanchester. THE MAYOR would respond to the letter.

Mayor

15/214 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 G WILSON reported that following the Town Council's recommendation to approve the design for the new pumping station, HDC had asked that the Town Council withdraw their objection to the temporary access road to the pumping station. This was AGREED.

Town Clerk

CLLR G WILSON reported that a planning application had been made for a living history centre on the site of the Hemingford Abbots golf course. The Town Council had not received a formal consultation on this application but the land in question would border the Bearscroft development. It was AGREED to write to HDC to raise concerns that Godmanchester Town Council had not been consulted and to indicate the Town Council's concerns about potential noise and disturbance to Godmanchester residents. **Town Clerk's note, following the meeting a formal consultation was received and the matter will be considered at the January Town Council meeting.**

Town Clerk

15/215 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

15/215.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 15/215.1 was APPROVED. It was AGREED that a cheque would be raised following the meeting to S Conboy, once the paperwork and receipts had been checked by the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk

15/215.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 10 December, 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.

AGENDA ITEMS 15/217; 15/218; AND 15/219 were discussed prior to finalising discussions on item 15/216

15/216 BUDGET PREPARATION AND PRECEPT FOR 2016/17

CLLR G WILSON presented a draft budget together with a forecast of year end balances. Following discussions about proposed major expenditure in excess of £250k on the QES it was AGREED to include £100k in the budget for 2016/17 towards the overall project. It was AGREED that the Property Portfolio Group would seek grant funding towards remaining costs. It was noted that in order to minimise the impact on the Town Council reserves, the precept would need to be increased by a substantial amount. A 1% increase would only raise the income by £1.5k and it was proposed that the precept be increased by 10%. The vote for this increase was carried: 6 for, 5 against, 4 abstained. The Town Clerk would submit the precept request to HDC for a precept of £179400. Subject to minor amendments the draft budget for 2016/17 was AGREED in the sum of £323,875. CLLR G WILSON advised that the Town Council should prepare a proper plan for future receipt and use of CIL money received.

Town Clerk

The Property Portfolio Group would review the scales of hire charges for the QES and Judith's Field

Property Portfolio

15/217 MILL STEPS

THE MAYOR presented a report which was noted. Following discussion it was AGREED to appoint David Stokes to provide a costed Feasibility Study for the renovation of the Mill Steps Area for a sum up to £1k.

Town Clerk

15/218 REPLACING TWO TREES AT LONDON ROAD CEMETERY

CLLR COHEN presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED to replace two trees at the Cemetery at a cost of £101.45 including VAT. CLLR COHEN would also look at cleaning the bench which the previous trees had spoiled.

Clr Cohen

15/219 PROPERTY REPORT

Town Hall

CLLR CAMPBELL presented a report and also confirmed quotes had been received in respect of the proposed works to the Town Hall. Two contractors had declined to submit quotes and following discussion it was AGREED to accept the quote from NLS builders at a cost of £21817.47 for building works in the Town Hall, subject to receipt of amended costs for electrical and plumbing works. It was AGREED to accept the quote from Dream Doors at a cost of £5000 plus VAT to install a new kitchen in the Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk

CLLR CAMPBELL advised that a contingency of up to £2k should be allowed for this project and further advised that the costs does not include costs for replacing carpets and curtains.

QES

CLLR CAMPBELL confirmed that HDC had advised they would be prepared to discuss the future of the public toilet block and possible reduction in number of units after the Town Council had consulted with the community. It was AGREED to arrange a public meeting in January 2016 to seek the views of Godmanchester residents.

Property
Portfolio

The estimated cost of the repair and upgrade of the QES would be in excess of £250k. Following discussions it was AGREED to put a figure of £100k in the budget for 2016/17. The Property Group would progress the project further and confirmed their commitment to applying for the maximum grant funding available, sources to be confirmed

Clr Vane Percy left at 21.39pm

Discussions about the 2016/17 Budget and level of precept continued following discussions about the amount requested by the Property Portfolio group

12/220 JUDITH'S FIELD REVAMP

CLLR COXHEAD presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED to appoint Campbell McCrae to carry out a feasibility study for the Judith's Field building covering budgets of £250k; £500k and £750k. Costs would be up to a limit of £1925 plus VAT.

Town Clerk

Enquiries had been made regarding the allocation of S106 monies to the Judith's Field as to whether the contributions could be used elsewhere for community benefit. HDC Planning Department had confirmed that the Town Council had covenanted, in the agreement, to use the Community Facilities Contribution for no purpose other than improvements to the Judith Fields Pavilion in accordance with the terms of the Community Facilities Notice (as per page 36 of the S106 agreement).

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2016 IN THE TOWN HALL STARTING AT 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 21.45 pm

Mayor

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