

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2017**

PRESENT: P MORGAN: Town Mayor;
Councillors: Mrs S CONBOY (Deputy Mayor) G CAMPBELL; A HOOKER; D KING; Ms J MACLEOD; P MALLEY; A McINNES ; Mrs M RADFORD; Ms K SPOWART; D TAPLIN; D UNDERWOOD; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON; Mrs S WORTHINGTON; J YOUNG

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

No members of the public were in attendance

17/015 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR VANE PERCY: personal reasons

17/016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR MALLEY: planning application in respect of 17 East Chadley Lane as applicants known to him.

17/017 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19 January 2017 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

17/018 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The monthly draw for the 800 club took place.

17/019 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the town on 2 occasions.

THE MAYOR thanked CLLR MALLEY for compiling the newsletter.

THE MAYOR thanked all Cllrs who had been involved in the bike marking event. There had been an excellent turnout and 48 bikes had been marked.

THE MAYOR thanked all Cllrs who had attended Cllr training sessions, he was sure they would be useful.

THE MAYOR was pleased to note that working party meetings would all start at 7.30pm to avoid confusion.

THE MAYOR advised that it was the 75th anniversary of the Sterling Bomber which had crashed in Godmanchester. A dedication ceremony would take place on 9 September with further details to follow later in the year.

17/020 OUTSTANDING MATTERS

PROPERTY:

- CLLR YOUNG advised that the Town Council may wish to contact the families who own the gravestones in the churchyard which need attention following the recent topple testing. CLLR YOUNG will provide information to the Town Office.
- CLLR G WILSON and CLLR WORTHINGTON will draft a further letter to Godmanchester Academy Trust and CCC in respect of the boundary wall between the Non Conformist Burial Ground and the Godmanchester Primary Academy on churchyard wall as no further progress had been made.
- CLLR CAMPBELL advised he had met with Dr Jo Sears who would review the documents available to determine if there was sufficient data available for her to

Cllr Young

Cllr G Wilson/
Cllr Worthington

provide a report on historic manorial rights.

ENVIRONMENT:

- CLLR CONBOY confirmed that work had been commissioned for tree work at Buttermel which would be carried out in March.

17/020.1 Newsletter: Cllrs were asked to email any changes required to the draft newsletter to CLLR MALLEY. CLLR MACLEOD was disappointed that the hard hitting article she had provided on dog-poo had not been included. CLLR MALLEY advised that an alternative article had been provided by the Deputy Clerk which presented a more positive piece on what the Town Council were doing and that had been included.

All Cllrs

17/021 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received was noted.

CLLR CONBOY advised that a resident had emailed following a post on GMC Living to ask the Town Council to consider provision of a skatepark in Godmanchester. The Environment Portfolio would look at what might be possible and respond to the resident.

Cllr Conboy

The Environment Portfolio would consider holding a litter pick in spring in line with the "Clean for the Queen" event, however as our Street Orderly is doing a good job clearing street weeds and litter, it may not be necessary.

Environment
Portfolio

17/022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 17/022 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

It was AGREED the Town Council had no further comments to be made to Carter Jonas.

17/023 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

CLLR CONBOY presented a report which was noted.

17/024 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

17/024.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 17/02409.1 was APPROVED. CLLR TAPLIN reported that clarification was needed on the rate of VAT charged on our utility bills. Town Clerk to action.

Town Clerk

17/024.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 16 February, 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 Mayor. CLLR G WILSON reported that on the budget for the year to date, the Town Council had spent £234k of a budget for £347k. The main reasons for the under-spend were due to slow progress on projects for the QES refurbishment and Mill Steps. Work would continue into the next financial year, but the Town Council would need to explain in more detail at the Annual Town Meeting why the under-spend had occurred.

17/024.3 CLLR CONBOY presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED that the Town Council would make a donation to the Mayors Charities in the sum of £480.23. It was also AGREED to note the Town Council's thanks to everyone who had been involved in the event in any capacity.

Town Clerk

17/025 BUSINESS PLAN

CLLR UNDERWOOD presented a report which was noted. The Town Council AGREED to adopt the Draft 2017/18 good

17/026 PROPERTY REPORT

Architects chased. Inspection of roof structure, 2 march at JF at 10am produce current scheme close to date tenders, planning perm done, more people to approve finalise scheme before goes out to tender in april.

Application for wren grant

Town hall repairs to be done

Mayoral board below £2k to get underway town clerk to

Mill steps – issue legal implication, chase solicitors with answer, what are we going to be lumbered with. Liaise with EA afterwards.

Chinese bridge and town hall steps

Noticeboard put out concept and design split where it should go. Day when as many meet on school hill on consensus.

Jf building -

17/027 ENVIRONMENT REPORT

CLLR CONBOY presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED to purchase and plant 10 willows at a cost of £3000. This scheme is to replace the former proposal for an arboretum of trees. A planting scheme for the Recreation Ground was discussed and APPROVED. It was AGREED to purchase trees identified at a cost of £1444. Memorial Tree policy to be amended to allow for trees to be adopted.

17/028 PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS AND REPAIRS

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 following item of business, the Press and Public were excluded from the meeting

17/029 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

17/030 PERSONNEL

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

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16 MARCH 2017 IN THE TOWN HALL STARTING AT 7.30pm

The meeting ended at xxxpm

Mayor

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