

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 15TH AUGUST 2019**

PRESENT: R TAPLIN (Town Mayor)
Councillors: G CAMPBELL; J HLADKIWSKYJ; A HOOKER; C HYAMS; P IRVING; P MORGAN; Mrs M RADFORD; C THOMAS; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON; J YOUNG

Admin Officer: MRS J ROYLE

No members of the public present

Action

19/114 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

TOWN CLERK - Holiday
CLLR CONBOY – Holiday
CLLR MAHMOOD- Personal commitments
CLLR UNDERWOOD – Holiday
CLLR VANE PERCY – Holiday
CLLR WORTHINGTON -Holiday
MACE BEARER – Holiday

19/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

19/116 MINUTES:

CLLR IRVING observed that the heading of the minutes read the 15th August 2019 when it referred to the minutes of 18th July 2019. The Administration Officer agreed that this was an error and should be amended, CLLR RADFORD then proposed that with the date amended the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th July 2019 were accurate and should be accepted as a true record. CLLR MORGAN seconded the proposal, and all were in favour.

19/117 PERSONNEL MINUTES:

THE MAYOR stated that he was the only member of Council present to have attended the Personnel meeting held on the 25th July 2019 and could confirm that they were an accurate record.

19/118 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR announced that he and the DEPUTY MAYOR had attended eleven events on behalf of the Town Council and he was next due to represent Godmanchester in Szentendre on the 18th & 19th August to celebrate 30 years of Twinning with Wertheim. Two representatives of the Twinning Association were also going to represent the Town but, as the Mayor of Huntingdon was unable to attend, THE MAYOR of Godmanchester would be the only representative from Council representing both Huntingdon and Godmanchester.

19/120 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

None

19/119 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Club 800 draw took place.

CLLR G WILSON stated that he had received additional information in relation to the proposed access path agreement to Judith's Field to which Marchfield's solicitor recommended that the Town Council seek its own legal advice.

The MAYOR asked that action to register Town Council land be accelerated.

Cllr G Wilson

Signed:

19/121 CORRESPONDENCE:

The list of correspondence was duly noted.

CLLR CAMPBELL requested that the letter received from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the Great Ouse Valley public rights of way network be circulated amongst Councillors for discussion at the next meeting of the Environment Group.

Town Clerk

CLLR WILSON reported on the correspondence received from Carter Jonas regarding the access land to Judith's Field and the Agreement between the Trustees and Marchfield. David Wilson Homes were to pay the cost of installing an access path and gate, but CLLR IRVING queried who would be responsible for any future maintenance; CLLR G WILSON undertook to investigate the options.

Cllr G Wilson

19/122 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS:

THE MAYOR queried the increased amount payable to the Ground Maintenance contractors, Fergusons, and was advised this was due to the installation of hanging baskets.

CLLR S WILSON queried the reason for hire of the "Portaloos" and was advised it was for opening of the Skatepark event on 17th August 2019.

CLLR MORGAN observed there were seven refundable deposits to be repaid this month in relation to hire of the halls at the Queen Elizabeth School and queried whether these were for cancelled events or for deposits held on account in the event of damage or breakages. He was advised by the Administration Officer that they were returns of deposits.

19/122.1.1 The list of payments was APPROVED.

19/122.2 CLLRs noted receipt of petty cash reconciliation to 31st July, monthly budget report on the year to date, and monthly bank reconciliation which had been inspected by the MAYOR.

19/123 BUSINESS REPORT:

CLLR THOMAS presented the Business Report. He advised that funds from the Twinning Budget had been approved to supplement the costs of 4 students attending the Youth Festival in Gubbio in September.

CLLR Thomas reported that concerns had been raised by Huntingdon District Council about the viability of the proposed fish run both as a practical solution and the cost. The situation needed to be monitored closely and CLLR CONBOY had agreed to report back any decisions made at a District level.

19/124 PROPERTY REPORT

CLLR CAMPBELL reported that the refurbishment at Judith's Field was still progressing. CLLR RADFORD had attended the last meeting with Hutchinson's, on behalf of the TOWN COUNCIL and had reported that the project was still on budget and on time.

It has been agreed to fit an extra outdoor tap as well as an outside drinking water fountain.

A problem had arisen with the boiler in that it had not been in the plans to replace the existing one. However, on closer inspection it needs replacing at an additional cost of £4000.00. This would be further discussed at the next budget meeting.

THE MAYOR enquired if the refurbishment was still progressing within the allocated timescale and CLLR CAMPBELL reiterated that the refurbishment was still on course to complete on time. He also stated that the contractors, Hutchinsons, had been very helpful and co-operative to deal with.

CLLR CAMPBELL reported that there was no money left in the contingency which had been used up mainly on replacing the asbestos roof. Although the building was only 30 years old it had not been anticipated how poorly it had been built in the first place and had included the use of older tiles which contained asbestos, needing specialist removal.

CLLR CAMPBELL requested that the CCTV system at Judith's Field be replaced by a new "state of the art" system and advised that, due to a high risk of vandalism, it would be a serious mistake not to have CCTV in place and operating when the building re-opened.

CLLR HLADKIWSKYJ had already received quotations for a new CCTV operating system and would follow these up to see which would be most effective.

Budget
Portfolio

Cllr
Hladkiwskyj

Signed:

CLLR HYAMS requested that an outside company be employed to search for any reported incidents rather than the office staff having to scroll through hours of footage. He also suggested that it may be more useful to install cameras that only record when movement is detected. THE MAYOR suggested that CLLR HLADKIWSKYJ could investigate these options during his research into the CCTV options for Judith's Field.

CLLR MORGAN stated that he believed Huntingdon District Council now have a new and improved CCTV system in place and that CLLR HLADKIWSKYJ could investigate their system and the possibility of joining with them.

CLLR CAMPBELL was concerned that this could delay matters. He stated that time was of the essence and that a decision as to which CCTV system was required would be needed before the next Property Group Meeting

CLLR CAMPBELL proposed the approval of a budget of £600.00 for secondary glazing to the window in the upstairs office of the Town Hall. The room is going to be turned into the office for the Town Clerk and, in the winter, becomes very cold. All voted in favour and it was so resolved.

Admin
Officer

CLLR MORGAN stated that now the builders had pulled the fence down at Judith's Field there needed to be bollards put in place to prevent any vehicles accessing the field. CLLR HOOKER proposed that the quickest option would be a concrete post. CLLR RADFORD proposed that the cost should come out of the Environment Budget and the vote was carried unanimously.

Cllr Hooker

19/125 SKATEPARK REPORT

CLLR YOUNG expressed his thanks to CLLR CAMPBELL, CLLR IRVING and CLLR RADFORD for all the hard work they had put into the opening of the Skatepark.

THE MAYOR queried the third-party payment to the Amey Community Fund as Sport England had not requested such a payment. The Administration Officer advised that the Town Clerk had advised that this payment must be paid as it was a condition of the grant awarded.

Everything was in place for the opening ceremony. An ice cream van had been arranged by CLLR RADFORD and there would be bottled water available. The St John's Ambulance had been booked to attend and the College of Animal Welfare had agreed that their car park could be used for additional parking. It was envisaged that any parking space at Judith's Field would be used by Maverick who were organising the event.

CLLR IRVING would produce signs and CLLR CAMPBELL asked for volunteers to help direct traffic on the day. The whole event has been organised by Maverick and CLLR CAMPBELL thanked the 800 club for donating money towards the purchase of a bench at the Skatepark. He also thanked Mike Grice and Stephen Wakeman, the Facility Assistants, for their hard work in laying a concrete base for the bench.

THE MAYOR congratulated the team on organising the event and CLLR G WILSON enquired if the event had been advertised enough. CLLR CAMPBELL advised that a decision had been made not to advertise out of Godmanchester. Posters had been put up all over the town; it was also on the Town Council website and would be put up on the Godmanchester Living Facebook Page again.

19/126 PLANNING:

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 19/126 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

CLLR G WILSON stated that he has requested a meeting with David Wilson Homes and Huntingdon District Council regarding outstanding issues with regard to the Romans Edge Development, including the need to plant and maintain trees.

19/127 ENVIRONMENT REPORT:

CLLR HOOKER congratulated Fergusons on the appearance of the hanging baskets around the Town this year. He believes the improvement this year is because there were no restrictions on the choice of colours that could be used. The Town Clerk would write to Fergusons expressing the Council's appreciation for the displays.

Town Clerk

Signed:

19/127.1 Report on Planters

CLLR Morgan expressed his concern about the look and position of the some of the planters around the Town. He particularly did not like the sewer ring planters as they look particularly bad in winter and one even hides the plaque with the Town’s name on it.

Environment
Portfolio

19/127.2 Report on Bins

CLLR HOOKER reported that following a survey on the state of the bins it would require a budget of £1400.00 to replace and/or repair many of the bins around the Town.

19/127.3 Budget Flexing

CLLR HOOKER stated that he had had to make various changes to the allocation of monies in the allotted budget. This was to cover additional costs such as vandalism and bollards. The Town Clerk was asked to amend the overall budget figures to be in line with this.

Town Clerk

CLLR HOOKER reminded the council that it had been agreed to replace the MUGA lighting at Judith’s Field with more efficient LED lighting. This had been delayed due to the refurbishment of the building at Judith’s Field, but it now been decided to go ahead with the project whilst the main contractors were still working on the site.

CLLR HOOKER advised that, following emergency work to the Ash Tree on the Recreation Ground it had been recommended to carry out further work to reduce the risk of further falling branches.

THE MAYOR informed Council that a member of the public had accidentally hit one of the entrance bollards on exiting the Town Hall car park and whilst there was more damage to the car than the bollard it would require re-touching with black paint.

Town Clerk

CLLR CAMPBELL informed council that the Enforcement Officer from Cambridgeshire County Council had agreed to arrange for clearance of the overhanging branches blocking the path around MONKS PIT and to have the pathways re-surfaced. No start date for the work has yet been given. CLLR CAMPBELL stated that he would be writing to the Fishing Club about the fence but as it was not blocking the path and hard to define the actual boundary on the map it would be difficult to insist that they move the fence. It was hoped (by CCC) that the parish would take over responsibility for maintaining the footpaths in the future, and CLLR S WILSON expressed her concern over future costs involved.

Cllr Campbell

CLLR HYAMS enquired about the barbed wire but was assured this was located behind the inner fence and did not affect the path.

THE MAYOR concluded the meeting by advising everyone that there had been a good response to the Garage Sale with over thirty-five entries to date. Following on from the sale, Millside Canoes were also offering to reduce their charges on Sunday 1st September with all proceeds being donated to the Mayors Charity.

The Mayor advised that the meeting had finished 15 mins early and that if there was no further business to discuss he wished everyone a good break.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

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TOWN MAYOR

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DATED

Signed: