

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2019**

PRESENT: R TAPLIN (Town Mayor)
Councillors: S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor) G CAMPBELL; A HOOKER; C HYAMS; P IRVING; Mrs M RADFORD; C THOMAS; J YOUNG; Mrs S CONBOY; R MAHMOOD; P MORGAN; D UNDERWOOD; C VANE PERCY

Town Clerk: Ms V PRYCE

One member of the public was present

Action

19/142 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ - Personal

19/143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr HYAMS – Planning Application 19/01877/HHFUL, matters pertaining to the Community Association and Remembrance Sunday

Cllr CAMPBELL – Various Planning Applications

Cllr VANE PERCY – Planning Application 18/01858/S73

19/144 MINUTES:

THE MAYOR proposed that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19TH September 2019 were accurate and should be accepted as a true record, MAJORITY IN FAVOUR and it was so **resolved**.

19/145 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MAYOR reported that the Council had held a successful Civic Service and thanked those that had attended, and those who had organised the event. The MAYOR had received lots of individual feedback from those that came, including from David Busk. The MAYOR advised that in the past month he and the Deputy had represented the Council at 11 different events. The MAYOR reminded the Council that the next Civic Event would be held on 22nd November, the Mayors Civic Supper, and hoped all that can will join him. He advised that attendees would include Civic Leaders and the High Sheriff, and the event would also include a raffle.

19/146 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

The club 800 draw took place.

Gill Marshall addressed the Council on behalf of Karen Pauley and the Godmanchester Remembers group. Ms. Marshall spoke about the soldier silhouettes and their inclusion at the Remembrance Sunday Service. Ms. Marshall asked the Council to consider how the silhouettes and their custodians could be included in the service, and the importance of providing sufficient space for health and safety purposes.

19/147 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Noted

19/148 CORRESPONDENCE:

The list of correspondence was duly noted.

The MAYOR regretfully advised that Cllr UNDERWOOD had presented his resignation with effect from the end of the meeting.

The MAYOR advised that he had attended a number of invitations for Civic Services which have been very interesting, and enabled links to be forged with other towns.

The MAYOR had also received an invitation to Salon de Provence for the inauguration of their new Mayor which he felt would have been a good opportunity to discuss Twinning, but unfortunately the invite arrived two days prior to the event taking place.

19/149 PLANNING:

The planning applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 19/149 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

Cllr G WILSON advised that HDC had provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan with recommended amendments. Following further advice Cllr G WILSON will be updating them.

Cllr G Wilson

Cllr G WILSON advised that he had attended a meeting about Romans' Edge works with the Regional Director from DWH and Laura Pearson representing HDC; the meeting had been useful and various actions had been noted.

Cllr G WILSON advised that Chris Bayliss from Highways England had given a presentation about the demolition of the Huntingdon viaduct. He advised that the main part of A14 will open in December which is a year earlier than anticipated.

Work would begin in January to join up the old A14 past Godmanchester down to the Huntingdon ring road which would take 6 to 9 months to complete. He advised that it could take a year to fully remove the viaduct. The MAYOR added that traffic would be diverted through Godmanchester with vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes travelling to get into Huntingdon. Larger vehicles travelling west-bound between Swavesey and Huntingdon would join the old A14 and use the A1198; hence, Godmanchester could be subject to up to 9 months of increased traffic. Cllr CONBOY recommended that the Council communicate with the public to keep residents up to date.

Town Clerk

Cllr G WILSON advised Council that Highways were holding an open day on the 30th October between 10am and 3pm, Councillors and the Town Clerk were invited to go.

Cllr G WILSON reported that there were still proposals for double yellow lines to be painted outside the Co-op on Cambridge Road. Following a meeting with transport officers Cllr G WILSON advised that they had revised the proposal including shorter double yellow lines the opposite side of road to Co-op, this proposal would be further considered by the Planning Portfolio at their November meeting. Cllr THOMAS added that the original LHI bid did not include yellow lines on the opposite side of the road and that Highways had added them.

**Planning
Portfolio**

Cllr G WILSON reminded Council that an Extra Ordinary meeting had been called for Monday 28th October to discuss a planning application relating to 50 Tudor Road; he encouraged as many Councillors as possible to attend the meeting.

All

Cllr HYAMS referred to the 30mph signage in Silver Street and requested that Cllr G WILSON as County Councillor requested a site meeting with Highways to further explain the issue.

Cllr G Wilson

19/150 ENVIRONMENT REPORT:

Cllr HOOKER reported that the play equipment surface repairs at Judith's Field had been carried out but another area near the skate park had been identified as requiring resurfacing, for which quotes were being sought. Rubbish bins were being replaced where they were needed. A further bin location had been identified at Judith's Field, which would cost £350. It was hoped that the Town Wardens would be able to install the bin but Council should note that the annual bin emptying contract would increase by £170.

Cllr HOOKER reported that the MUGA lights had been replaced. Two new dog-poo bag dispensers were being installed, one at the Churchyard entrance and one at the Judith's Field entrance off of the A1198. Cllr HOOKER reported that because of the popularity of the dog bags the annual budget had been spent and subsequently the budget for 2020/21 would be doubled. The Environment Portfolio were researching new play equipment and were focusing on adult outdoor gym equipment.

Cllr HOOKER confirmed that the silt dispersal would begin on the 23rd October and would take 2/3 days, it would be necessary to limit access to the recreation ground to allow for this. Signage and barriers would be put in place in time for the closure

Cllr Hooker

and the footpath would remain open for walkers. After two weeks a farmer would bring another piece of equipment to run over the recreation ground to further break up any residual debris.

Discussion had taken place regarding the Council's responsibility for the maintenance of the Churchyard and responsibility for non-conformist section of the graveyard, footpaths and other material items. Cllr YOUNG advised that he was to meet with the Church Officer from the Diocese of Ely and would ascertain the extent of the Local Authorities' responsibilities. Cllr VANE PERCY, reported that he had been in contact with Robert Francis regarding the budget for grass cutting at St Mary's Churchyard, and also confirmed that the Council owned the non-conformist part of the Churchyard.

Cllr Young

Cllr HOOKER advised that there had been a desire to add a paddling pool at Judith's Field and that this could cost £100k but felt that this potential project would fall within the Business Portfolio remit.

Cllr HYAMS recommended that contact be made with officers at HDC who have a wider expertise on play equipment.

Cllr CONBOY requested that Youth Council be consulted and involved with the selection of new play equipment.

19/151 OUSE VALLEY WAY AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr CAMPBELL reported that maintenance of public footpaths in the past few years has been very poor. He added that it had taken two years of letter writing and meetings to make progress at with CCC to clear Monks Pit footpath.

CCC have now asked if the Towns and Parishes would take responsibility for footpaths, and we have been asked to reply by 31st October. It was pointed out that there are way marking posts through the woods which also needed maintenance.

Cllr G WILSON commented that while the Council could look for volunteers, failure to get volunteers would mean the Council would have to pay Fergusons to maintain the areas. Cllr S WILSON advised that she would be unhappy for the Council to take on the responsibility and CCC should be looking to organise volunteers themselves. Cllr UNDERWOOD agreed with the worthiness of this cause but added that maintenance of the footpaths are the statutory responsibility of the CCC and taking on the statutory obligations of another authority was not a good idea. Cllr THOMAS pointed out that within their paperwork it stated that Town and Parish Councils would need to indemnify the CCC up to £5million for any works undertaken by them or their contractors on their behalf. The MAYOR proposed that the Council would not take on responsibility for the maintenance of footpaths belonging to CCC, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

19/152 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS:

19/152.1 & 19/152.2 The list of payments was APPROVED.

19/152.3 CLLRs noted receipt of petty cash reconciliation to 30th September, the monthly budget report on the year to date, and the monthly bank reconciliation.

19/153 BUSINESS REPORT:

Cllr THOMAS asked the Council to reconsider the charges for Judith's Field, the recommendation from the office was that the charge should be more in line with those of the QES; these were modest increases. The MAYOR proposed that the Council accept the new charges, all were in favour, and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr THOMAS advised that following Cllr Malley's departure, the Council required an additional finance signatory on the bank account. The MAYOR proposed that Cllr THOMAS be put forward as a signatory, all were in favour, and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr THOMAS discussed the potential acquisition of a large strip of land near the Nursery and Cricket Field, the Park Lane car park and the Mill Yard car park, to determine use of these

**Town Clerk/Cllr
Thomas**

areas. He felt it might be advantageous to seek transfer of title but needed to understand the implications and proposed that this work be assigned to the Nursery Working Group to assess the implications. Cllr CONBOY had been assigned as Chair within the Nursery Portfolio. HDC had advised that the Nursery handover paperwork was within the Secretary of State's office, and it may be offered to the Council by the end of the year.

Cllr Conboy

Cllr CONBOY would be advertising bike marking sessions but no date had yet been identified. The Youth Council believed that there should be two marking sessions - Cllr CONBOY asked Cllrs to let her know if they would be able to assist at the event; all would be welcome.

Cllr Conboy
All Cllrs

Cllr THOMAS advised that the Business Portfolio were still reviewing possible charges for the use of council land and were revising the Grant Awarding Policy.

Cllr THOMAS advised that he had asked the Clerk to update the Portfolio sheet to reflect revised responsibilities.

Town Clerk

Cllr THOMAS reported that losing Cllr UNDERWOOD from the portfolio meant that the group had to prioritise tasks that needed to be carried out, over those that were less urgent.

Therefore, the Neighbourhood Scheme, Defibrillators and Emergency Planning would be put on hold for the moment.

Cllr S WILSON advised that due to her commitments on HDC she was unable to attend the Planning Portfolio meetings and requested a move to the Business Portfolio group, which was agreed.

19/154 TWINNING REPORT:

Cllr UNDERWOOD reported attending an extremely successful trip representing the MAYOR to Gubbio along with 12 youngsters from St Peters School and Hinchingsbrooke School. Cllr UNDERWOOD presented a plaque received from the Mayor of Gubbio to the Mayor of Godmanchester. Cllr UNDERWOOD had made a suggestion at the business meeting that Twin Towns could host short break walking holidays, to explore the areas immediately around the visited Town. He suggested that Godmanchester could use the Ouse Valley Way to St Ives. While the youth event was very successful it didn't cater for anyone with disabilities. He advised that Twinning could provide an opportunity for people with disabilities. The youngsters that attended were very enthusiastic and one or two of them, would like to attend a Council meeting to not only thank them for the subsidy but also share their experience of the visit. The MAYOR advised that he had attended the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning meeting the previous night and mention was made of Cllr UNDERWOOD's participation, included in their thinking was suggestions that would involve those with disabilities although there was concern around transport. The MAYOR added that Cllr UNDERWOOD had represented the Council very ably on Twinning and, following his departure from the Council, the Council would require a volunteer to fill the position.

All Cllrs

19/155 CHRISTMAS MARKET REPORT:

Cllr RADFORD advised that all stalls had been taken, with the exception of one that had subsequently been cancelled.

Cllr RADFORD advised that the installation of switches for the Christmas lights by Balfour Beatty would cost £313 each, and £1566 to do all five. There would also be a small charge for the electricity used. The MAYOR proposed this quote be accepted, all were in favour, and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr RADFORD advised that the Children's entertainment included a juggling stilt walker for three hours during the event which would cost £190. Two singing princesses were arriving at 16.30hrs and would be working alongside the juggler and would process with the MAYOR for the light switch on. The princesses would then sing popular songs for the children.

Mr Marvel a children's entertainer had also been booked for two hours at a cost of £225.

A Magical Moments photo booth would also be provided to give children the opportunity to take affordable photographs as presents for family.

Santa's grotto would be in place inside QES in the large hall, Mr Marvel would remain in the small hall. Images provided by Peter Maguire would be displayed on the walls and there would also be a slide show. Cllr RADFORD advised that a license to sell alcohol had been applied for. St Johns Ambulance would be in attendance at a cost of £215. The MAYOR proposed that Cllr RADFORDS entertainment proposals were accepted; all were in favour

and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr RADFORD advised that Rev Busk would give a blessing following the light switch on. An advertisement board would be erected three weeks prior to the event on the vicarage wall. Further anticipated costs included £800 for the Christmas Tree, the Clerk had previously contacted the Freemen to request a donation but had not received a response. Martin Childs had confirmed that he would remove and dispose of the tree for free – the Council expressed their gratitude. Cllr RADFORD requested that the Council set aside £100 for lighting the Grotto and other areas. Cllr RADFORD advised that she would be approaching local business for donations to sponsor gifts for the children. An email address was being provided for children to write to Santa. A contingency fund of £50 for a performing rights license had been set aside, however the quote received was over £100. Cllr RADFORD would seek further advice on this matter. A £25 donation to Ladybird Boat would be required and Cllr RADFORD asked Council for volunteers with the setting up of the Christmas Market and help during the event.

All Cllrs

19/156 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:

Cllr HYAMS reported that Godmanchester Remembers were requesting the silhouettes and their guardians meet at the War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday. He advised that Godmanchester Remembers had carried a questionnaire and their members would like to know the Town Council's position on the matter. Cllr HYAMS advised the options considered were that the silhouettes process with the Town Council or they are permitted to be at the Memorial prior to the Council's arrival. The MAYOR advised that they did not need the Council approval to be at the War Memorial. Cllr MORGAN suggested that the silhouettes be at the Memorial before the Town Council arrival and that the silhouettes can follow the procession back from the Memorial to the Town Hall. Cllr CONBOY spoke of the practicalities of road closures and adequate space being provided and suggested a meeting with Cllr MORGAN and the Town Clerk. Cllr MORGAN acknowledged that the silhouettes required more space and this would need to be looked at. Cllr S WILSON suggested that Godmanchester Remembers approached the Council with more advanced notice in future due to the close proximity of the event. Cllr HYAMS thanked the MAYOR for adding this to the agenda.

Cllr Morgan

19/157 PROPERTY REPORT

Cllr CAMPBELL reported that the Judith's Field renovation was progressing and problems were being resolved. There had been problems with lighting cables and skatepark lights were not coming on at dusk. However, the MUGA lights had been set up with LED lights which would turn on from the 21st October. There had been Issues with CCTV as the contractor had previously expected to use existing services on site and this proved not to be possible. Cllr CAMPBELL would be meeting Cambridge Alarms with Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ to discuss and approve the cost increase. Cllr CAMPBELL advised that savings from the furniture budget could make up the shortfall. Cllr CAMPBELL remained confident that the building would be up and running by 28th November.

**Cllr Campbell/
Cllr Hladkiwskyj**

The meeting concluded at: 20.50