

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 21st October, 1982

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. J.M. McCartney (Town Mayor);

Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway, C. E. Dalleywater, B.P. Doherty, R.T.D. Hughes, J.M. James, J.H. Lewis, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss, C.W. Parcell, Mrs. C.E. Parker, C. Parker and B.R. Walsh.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors M.J. Hopkinson and A.E.H. Sursham.

82/60 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd September, 1982 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

82/61 MATTERS ARISING

In relation to Minute 82/47(a) - (Interim letting charge, Queen Elizabeth School) a request was made for an early opportunity to review the charge. It was indicated that this was likely when running costs were known.

In relation to Minute 82/50, and in response to a question, the Town Clerk undertook to have gowns available at the Queen Elizabeth School on the 4th November, 1982.

Arising out of Minute 82/51, Councillor Doherty reported that the response of sports clubs was favourably inclined towards the inter-village sports competition; and it was agreed that the District Council be informed accordingly.

In connection with Minute 82/57, Councillor Parcell gave an account of the site meeting for bus shelters, the outcome of which was that as the Company concerned were not interested in placing a shelter at Old Court Hall, no shelter would be placed in Godmanchester.

82/62 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1982.

The Town Mayor reported details for an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the morning of the 14th November, 1982, and a Service at the Parish Church in the evening; and announced her intention to process from School Hill on both occasions, accompanied by the Council. An invitation was presented from the Senior Citizen's Club for Council Members to return to the Town Hall for refreshment after the Act of Remembrance in the morning. The Town Council warmly accepted the invitation.

82/63 REV. J.P. YOUNG - CASUAL VACANCY.

The Town Mayor indicated the Council's good wishes for the Rev. J.P. Young in his new parish and announced that an election to fill the casual vacancy would be held on the 11th November, 1982. In relation to the consequential vacancy on the School Managing Body, the Town Council agreed to defer making an appointment until the by-election had been held.

82/64 PLANNING COMMITTEE.

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 23rd September and 7th October, 1982 were submitted (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book).

Resolved, - that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee be received and adopted.

82/65 LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on the 7th October, 1982 were submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

(i) In relation to Minute 82/10 thereof (Football Changing Rooms) the Town Council debated the merits of the request for a right of way for a separate access to Island Cottage after receiving a report from Councillor Parcell of the site meeting held that morning. The general opinion was that developing the alternative access would enhance the area at the rear of the car park; but that if terms for a grant of right of way could be agreed, similar consideration should be given to the owner of the Red House. It was thereupon

Resolved.- (a) that the Architect for the applicant be invited to make a detailed planning application; and the owner of the Red House be asked to make a formal application for a grant of right of way; and

(b) that the Finance Committee be authorised to deal with any further developments in the matter.

(ii) In relation to Minute 82/12(4) (Sand Pit) it was

Resolved.- that an estimate of the cost of a fence and gate be reported to the next meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

(iii) On the subject of the steps above the weir adjacent to Mill Yard it was

Resolved.- that enquiries be made with regard to means whereby the steps can be kept clear of weeds.

(iv) In relation to Minute 82/14 (Use of Queen Elizabeth School by the Youth Club) the Town Council learned that the arrangements for Church Hall use had again changed and it was

Resolved.- that the use of the Queen Elizabeth School be granted subject to the payment of the appropriate interim letting fee.

Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee be received and adopted.

82/66 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 7th October, 1982 were submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). In connection therewith the Chairman of the Committee indicated that the Financial Statement as at the 30th September, 1982 was helpful, <sup>and</sup> it was his intention to arrange for a more detailed statement to be submitted. In response to a question, the Chairman concurred that heating oil had been mentioned at the meeting. The Town Clerk reported that the balance on the Agency Account would be reduced by £2,067 arising out of a deficit on the Parochial Account of the former Huntingdon and Godmanchester Town Council as at 31st March, 1982 which had been apportioned between the two town councils in the same ratio as had been the balances. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee be received

82/67 USE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

(a) Fire Officer's Report.

Further to Minute 82/47(b), the report of the Fire Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and, in relation to the fire fighting equipment referred to in Section A thereof, it was

Resolved.- that a 9-litre water extinguisher be obtained for the large room and that the two existing extinguishers be tested by a competent engineer.

(b) Letting Fee Reduction.

The Town Clerk submitted a request for a reduction in the letting fee in respect of the use by Hunts Art Group; the reason being given related to batons which the Group had left affixed to the walls. However, the Town Council were firmly of the opinion that the letting fee was still very favourable and the Group could recover the batons if they so wished.

Resolved.- that no reduction be made in the letting fee.

82/68 REVIEW OF PROGRESS

In accordance with Minute 82/47(a), consideration was given to the following subjects, whereupon the decisions shown were taken:

- (a) The Parks: report of meeting with Planning Officers - Await ~~planning~~ application
- (b) Road signs - Working Party (Councillors Parcell, Hughes and Mrs. Middlemiss) to meet County Council officer
- (c) Godmanchester Cricket Club Continue to defer pending outcome of Cricket Club approach to Agents
- (d) Chinese Bridge - County Council to be reminded of the priority to be accorded; also refer to bridges at Osier beds.
- (e) Recreation Ground Tow Path AWA responsibility to be emphasised in relation to right of way used without formal consent
- (f) Town Twinning - Make provision in the Precept; confirm representation.
- (g) Recreation Ground Lamp Posts and Jubilee Hut - Property Working Party to deal
- (h) Street sweeping - Represent continued dissatisfaction to District Council: suggest better supervision
- (i) Fouling by Dogs - Obtain posters referred to by Director of Environmental Health.

82/69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the request of Councillor Dalleywater, the Town Council debated the proposition "that members of the public may give presentations to the Council and its Committees. These presentations may take any form".

In his presentation, Councillor Dalleywater indicated that it was a modest attempt to take seriously the subject of public participation.

INITIALS

Other members of the Council expressed views that individuals should be free to make such presentations which would overcome the difficulty of Councillors being unaware of facts and feelings as was the case when representations were made through Councillors. On the other hand, references were made to opportunities for talking to Councillors in work situations; by approaching Chairman of Committees or the Town Mayor and by holding personal surgeries. Similarly, views and opinions could be submitted in writing. Attention was drawn to the lack of public interest in meetings of the Council, although a good number had attended the Annual Parish Meeting. Perhaps the answer lay in more general meetings. Reference was also made to the practice in some quarters of holding a forum at the conclusion of Council business. Upon the proposition being put to the vote, it was declared LOST.

82/70 ACCOUNTS

In presenting items for payment, the Town Clerk reported further to Minute 82/56 that B.B. Preservation Ltd. was prepared to forego the cost of the hire of a generator (£80) for full and final payment

Resolved.- (a) that B.B. Preservation Ltd. be informed that the Town Council are prepared to accept a reduction of £80 but still require to see the day work sheets; and

(b) that the following payments be made:

B.B. Preservation Ltd.	£905.84 (per Minute 82/56)
Smiths Gore	£120.00
J.A. Davie	£91.15
Inland Revenue	£36.30
Godmanchester St Mary's Men's Group	£262.50

*Janet M. M. Ewing*

Town Mayor