

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 15th December, 1983.

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Doherty (Town Mayor);
Councillors C.E. Dallywater, K.J. Hopkinson, J.H. James,
J.H. Lewis, W.R. Looker, Mrs. J.M. McCartney, Mrs. M.L.
Middlemiss, C.W. Parcell, Mrs. C. Parker, A.W. Sursham
and B.R. Walsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway, R.T.D. Hughes and C. Parker.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced

(a) that in his capacity as Town Mayor he had derived great pleasure from attending a concert given by the Huntingdon Technical College Music School:

(b) that a letter of appreciation had been received from the German visitors who had stayed in the town: and

(c) that everybody present was invited to share seasonal hospitality at the conclusion of the Council Meeting.

83/90 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th November, 1983 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor, subject to

(a) the use of the plural with reference to windows in Minute 83/89; and

(b) that following the Town Mayor's announcement it was the Council's intention that a letter on the subject of the disrespect paid to the War Memorial be sent to the Editor of the Hunts Post.

Arising therefrom, reference was made to the following:

i) that following representations direct to the Electricity Board, week-end working was taking place on the street lighting scheme: and

ii) that in relation to the Precept for 1984/85, and in particular to the increase in the Mayoral Purse, consideration should be given to whether any increase needed to be made in the current year.

83/91 BUTTERMELL MEADOW

A memorandum by the Town Clerk on the subject was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which reported the proceedings of a meeting with Huntingdon District Council Officials attended by the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk. Following consideration of the issues involved, it was

Resolved.- that the Town Council indicate willingness to accept a free dedication of Buttermell Meadow on the following terms:-

1. that there be no insistence upon the provision of fencing;
2. that there be no insistence upon the provision of a footpath;
3. an assurance by the District Council that the site can

- be used for youth and community purposes with associated buildings; and
4. the documentation of any transaction, together with associated costs, to be undertaken by the District Council.

83/92 GODSPA REQUEST FOR GRANT

With reference to Minute 83/78, Councillor Hopkinson gave an account of the meetings attended by Councillors James, Parcell and himself - together and individually - for the purpose of satisfying themselves on the extent of the need for funds by Godspa. The site and buildings had been examined in relation to Godspa's original proposals and they had reached the conclusion that A) there was a cash flow shortfall and loan repayments had to be made - the immediate cash requirement appeared to be of the order of £4,000; and B) further immediate capital expenditure needed to be incurred on works which would effect future savings.

The Town Council debated the request and took into account, inter alia, the following additional factors:-

- i) the Association had an impressive number of adult members;
- ii) the restriction on young people was brought about by the physical limitations of the building;
- iii) a sad shortage of volunteers prepared to continue working on the project; and
- iv) the National Playing Fields Association was prepared to invest £10,000 in a children's play area leased for the purpose for 25 years.

The Town Council recognised the need for the early marketing flair associated with Godspa to be resuscitated and for a detailed prospectus for planning and funding the project. Having regard to the foregoing, and upon the recommendation of the three Councillors who comprised the Working Party, it was

Resolved.- a) that a grant of £1,000 be made to Godspa in the current year and that a further £1,000 out of the appropriate budget head be made to Godspa in 1984/85.

b) that the grants be subject to their being expended on concreting, lagging and insulation, and exterior work and carpentry:

c) that the principle of the Working Party associated with Godspa be continued on the basis that it will be able to involve itself in the financial management of Godspa and

d) that in the light of the foregoing resolutions the need for Councillor Sursham to represent the Town Council on the Executive Committee of Godspa is no longer required.

83/93 TWINNING

With reference to that part of Minute 83/86, the Town Mayor reported that whereas the Town Council had budgetted £200 for Twinning (including £100 bursery) Huntingdon Town Council was likely to budget £1,000. No action was taken following this observation.

83/94 PLAYScheme

The Town Mayor reported that although the appointed Working Party had not met formally, it would pursue the offers made by the Head Teacher and the P.T.A. of the Primary School to assist in organising the Playscheme.

83/95 OUSE VALLEY RECREATION PLAN

The Town Mayor reported upon the proceedings of a meeting of a Consultative Committee at which information was given with respect to views held on dredging to provide further moorings and piling as opposed to a revetment to support the river bank. He indicated his personal misgivings about some of the proposals being submitted and undertook to keep the Town Council informed on the subject.

83/96 CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT

Councillor Lewis sought clarification upon the status of the Code of Local Government Conduct and its application to the functions of the Town Council. Information was given to the effect that although the Code was issued as guidance to principal authorities, parish councils were free to observe its provisions but its use was not mandatory.

83/97 ST, ANNE'S LANE SITE

The Town Clerk reported that the site in the ownership of the Town Council had been amended in the Huntingdon Area draft local plan to reflect its suitability for housing development rather than car parking. The Town Council proceeded to discuss the interest being indicated in the site and agreed that steps should be taken to show its availability for sale by placing a For Sale notice on the site.

(Councillor Walsh here left the meeting)

83/98 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

Discussion took place on a) the use of the school for sales of "seconds", (b) the conditions of hire prepared by the Management Committee, and (c) the fact that the District Council might provide new public conveniences on the existing site adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth School. Consideration was also given to a request by a Group supporting the Buttermell Meadow project for free use of the School for meetings.

Resolved.- (a) that the original decision be rescinded and that the School be made available for sales other than those associated with Jumble and Bring & Buy etc., each request to be determined on its merits.

(b) that further consideration be given to the Conditions of Use at the next meeting; and

(c) that the Buttermell Meadow project group be permitted free use of the School for one month in the first instance.

83/99 TOWN ENTRY SIGNS

It was reported that two signs had been collected and were being suitably painted by Dr. and Councillor Mrs. Middlemiss. The Town Council recorded their appreciation of the efforts being given by Dr. and Mrs. Middlemiss and

Resolved.- that the two signs be sited at i) the Hosiery Mill and ii) on the Offord Road south of Berry Lane.

83/100 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to the undermentioned applications, whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council approved the following applications:

- a) paint and body repair shop, Unit 18 Roman Way Estate
- b) 1 x 6 bay mobile and extension of permission for two existing classrooms, Park Road School.

83/101 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved:

Conwell Construction Ltd. - Church clock supporting beam	£147. 20
Marshall Sisson, Architect - fees in respect of the above	20. 17
E. Plumb, Wisbech St. Mary's - 36 chairs	180. 00
J.A. Davie	93. 12
Inland Revenue	37. 50
Petty cash	20. 00
Huntingdon District Council - planning application fee	23. 50


Town Mayor

Godmanchester Town Council

Buttermell Meadow

(Memorandum by the Town Clerk)

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk met officials of the District Council on the 29th November, 1983 when the Town Council's reasons for declining to accept a dedication of Buttermell Meadow on the terms indicated in the letter from the Estates and Valuation Officer were explained. The Town Mayor confirmed that the Town Council were interested in acquiring the land but could not afford the cost of meeting the terms.

In response, it was indicated that having regard to the present good standard of hedgerow, the provision of fencing would not be insisted upon; further, that the quality of the development related footpath could be considerably relaxed. However, all the barbed wire currently in position would need to be removed.

The Town Mayor indicated that many, if not the majority, of the future residents of the land to the south of the site would make their way to The Causeway via Silver Street rather than to London Street. This point was conceded as a likelihood and could be given in support of any suggestion that no path at all be provided until a line of pedestrian traffic had been identified.

Your representatives thereupon agreed to seek the further view of the Town Council. An additional point was raised with the officials in respect of the possibility of part of the Meadow being utilized for allotments, to which the response was that if such a request were made, it would be referred to the District Council's Leisure and Amenities Committee.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED

that the Town Council indicate its willingness to accept a dedication of Buttermell Meadow on the following terms:-

1. No insistence upon the provision of fencing -
2. The standard of the path to be relaxed and that there be no insistence upon its provision for at least five years from the date of dedication - subject to a line of pedestrian traffic across the Meadow being identified -
3. Part of the Meadow to be used for allotments -
4. The assurance that it can be used for youth and community purposes with associated buildings.