

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 23rd February, 1984

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Doherty (Town Mayor).
Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway, R.T.D. Hughes, W.R. Looker,
J.M. James, Mrs. J.M. McCartney, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss,
C.W. Parcell, Mrs. C. Parker and B.R. Walsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J.H. Lewis, M.J. Hopkinson, C. Parker and A.E. Sursham.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that since the last meeting he had had the pleasure of representing the Town Council at a number of functions including Mayoral Civic Balls, a Concert in aid of Age Concern, a function at Godspa in aid of the Olympic Fund Support Group and the Chairman of the District Council's Charity Ball;

that highways repairs in 1984/85 would include the resurfacing of the footpath on the south-east side of West Street;

that the Godmanchester Senior Citizens' Club had kindly agreed to the Town Council's use of the Town Hall for the purpose of the civic photograph to be taken on the 22nd March, 1984 at 6.45 p.m;

that a choice of one of three menus could be made for the Civic Supper to be held at the Black Bull Hotel on the 17th March, 1984; (in the event, the Town Council asked the Town Mayor to represent their wishes for a choice of menus);

that the District Council Environmental Services Committee would be debating the location of new public conveniences in Godmanchester at a meeting to be held on the 28th February, 1984

that the draft Ouse Valley Recreation Plan would be exhibited in Godmanchester; and

that P.C. Gipson, Police Liaison Officer, had kindly consented to attend the meeting for the duration of the item about Vandalism.

83/116 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 26th January, 1984 were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Town Mayor.

83/117 VANDALISM

In thanking P.C. Gipson for giving time to attend the meeting, the Town Mayor introduced a discussion which he admitted was not new but which, more recently, had developed a nasty streak in that private property had become the target for vandals. Distasteful evidence was seen in the almost irreparable damage to the memorial seat to John Bester, placed prominently adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth School, damage to private car aerials, walls and gates, and the removal of lifebuoys from the riverside. Damage had also been caused to the Town Council Notice Board, Godspa pavilion, manhole covers; and tipping in dykes and ditches were endemic of a general attitude and an indictment of many of Godmanchester's young people.

Members of the Council generally joined in a condemnation of recent anti-social activities which had extended to intimidating elderly residents, and enquired whether an increase in police man-hours, particularly after dark, would curtail the unsavoury activities.

P.C. Gipson indicated that his own earlier enquiries about additional policing of the town had not met with a positive response but he welcomed any approaches the Town Council might make to the Police Authority on the subject. He drew attention to the opportunities afforded by the geography of Godmanchester to vandals and others who used the alleys to flee from scenes of damage or disruption. However, he reiterated his offer to try to resolve any problems in this connection which should be directed to Huntingdon Police Station by telephoning 56111.

Thereupon, the Town Council

Resolved.- that the Superintendent of Police be requested to increase the police presence in Godmanchester, particularly during the hours of darkness and school holidays; furthermore, that the police authority be asked to undertake police liaison at Hinchinbrooke School in the same way as it is undertaken at Godmanchester primary school.

83/118 ST. ANNE'S LANE - MARKETING

In referring to Minute 83/108, the Town Council

Resolved.- that the closing time and date for offers for the site off St. Anne's Lane be extended to 5 p.m. on the 19th April, 1984.

83/119 BUTTERMEL MEADOW

The Town Clerk reported the response of the District Council to the terms on which the Town Council were prepared to accept a free transfer of Buttermell, in that

- (a) a right of way only would suffice,
- (b) no condition relating to fencing would be made;
- (c) planning permission for buildings would be required; and
- (d) costs of the transfer should be borne by the Town Council.

Discussion took place with respect to (c) above and it was learned that the Buttermel project organisers wished to seek planning permission for a former mobile classroom, although details of size etc. were not known. The project organisers were asked to obtain details of the temporary building and submit them to the Town Clerk, whereupon it was

Resolved.- (a) that the Town Council apply for planning permission for a temporary building, and

- (b) that each party meet its own costs in the transfer.

83/120 AMENITY SEATS

The Town Clerk reported that the cost of repairing amenity seats was estimated at £550 at July, 1983 prices. The Town Council accepted that the figure was likely to be greater now, particularly in the light of the extensive damage to the John Bester memorial seat, and

Resolved.- that the District Council be requested to undertake the work of repair and maintenance as a matter of urgency.

83/121 STREET LIGHTS

The Town Mayor gave an account of the extent to which the street lighting improvements had been carried out but the length of time, the fact that some street lamps either did not work or were lit all day and that old lamp standards and rubble still needed to be removed amounted to a justifiable degree of dissatisfaction. The Town Council concurred with the foregoing view and, having regard to the accepted

Resolved.- that the District Council be informed in writing of the above described dissatisfaction.

83/122 11 CHADLEY LANE

The Town Clerk reported that the purchase of 11 Chadley Lane had been completed by the Civic Society and that, in accordance with their earlier decision, the amount of grant could now be paid.

Resolved.- that the grant of £1,000 to Godmanchester Civic Society be approved for payment.

83/123 FOOTBRIDGES ACROSS THE OSWERS

The Town Mavor drew attention to the state of disrepair of one of the footbridges and it was

Resolved.- that the matter be referred to the County Council and that that Authority be asked to make repairs as a matter of urgency.

83/124 B.B.C. RADIO CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Town Clerk drew attention to a request by Radio Cambridgeshire for a local contact and for copies of the Town Council's minutes. He acknowledged that the latter could be met as a matter of course and the Town Council asked that he take the former matter in hand as far as he was able to do so.

83/125 ENVIRONMENTAL TROPHY AWARD.

With reference to Minute 83/110, no further entries for the above award were indicated and it was confirmed that the subjects referred to in the former Minute be entered.

83/125 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to the following applications whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council recommend as follows:

- (a) Renewal of camping and caravan site, former Park Lane Nurseries - APPROVE
- (b) New bungalow at Clyde Farm, Silver Street - APPROVE (subject to agricultural need being substantiated)
- (c) Extentions and refurbishment of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School - APPROVE

83/126 PAID EMPLOYEES - Caretaker

The Town Clerk reported with respect to the cleaning of the Queen Elizabeth School since the former cleaner had asked to be relieved of the work. Mr. Brown, the newly appointed caretaker had indicated willingness to add the function to his other caretaking duties and thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that the offer of Mr. Brown be gratefully accepted and that his weekly payment be increased to £7 with effect from the beginning of the current week.

Town Clerk

Information was given with respect to the recommended bi-annual

INITIALS

review of Clerks' salaries and to the maximum which the Town Clerk imposed in his own calculations. The Town Council agreed that the review should be implemented as prescribed by the National Association of Local Councils and

Resolved. - that with effect from the 1st April, 1984 the Town Clerk's salary be increased to £1,740 per annum to run for two years thereafter.

83/127 ACCOUNTS

Resolved. that the following payments be approved. -

Public Works Loans Board	£667	22
Eastern Electricity - Queen Elizabeth Sch.	4	71
J. A. Davie	103	41
Godmanchester Civic Society	£1000	00
Inland Revenue	37	50
Petty Cash	30	00
Sharman Newspapers Ltd.	8	00
Hinchingsbrooke School - twinning bursary	100	00

Financial Statement

A Financial Statement as at 31 January 1984 was presented and information was given thereon. Arising therefrom, discussion ensued with respect to the grant paid for the Joint Playscheme and the extent to which arrangements had been made for the ensuing year. It was reported that the Working Party appointed would meet in the near future and that a report would be presented at the next meeting of the Town Council.

83/128 MAYORAL PURSE

(The Town Mayor vacated the Chair and left the meeting during consideration of this item. In the absence of the deputy Town Mayor and upon a proposal, duly seconded, it was agreed that Councillor Mrs. J.M. McCartney be appointed Chairman for the item of business).

With reference to Minute 83/102 (a) consideration was given to details given by the Town Mayor at the Town Council meeting held on the 8th November, 1983 and to the intentions believed to be held by Councillors at the last meeting in that it was considered to be appropriate to increase the Mayoral Purse for the current year. The Town Council confirmed the foregoing and, following a proposal that the Mayoral Purse be increased by £50 not being supported thereupon

Resolved. - that the Mayoral Purse be increased to a total of £350 in the current year.

The Town Mayor hereupon resumed the Chair.

83/129 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Resolved. - that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business.

83/130 CHURCHYARD GRASSCUTTING

The Town Clerk reported that the Godmanchester St. Mary's Men's Group had submitted a quotation for cutting the grass at the Churchyard and the Nonformist burial ground. The letter containing the

quotation indicated that it was the intention of the Group to purchase a new mower if they were successful and the Town Clerk gave details of an alternative quotation received in respect of the 1983 grass cutting season.

The Town Council indicated that they would like to see the grass cut more regularly than it had been during 1983 and

Resolved.- that the quotation submitted by the Men's Group be accepted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. B. W. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style and is slanted upwards to the right.

Town Mayor