

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 26 July 1984

Present: Councillor R.T.D. Hughes (Town Mayor)
Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway, B.P. Doherty, Mrs. J.B. Doherty, Mrs. V. Harris, M.J. Hopkinson, J.H. Lewis, W.R. Looker, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss, L. Miller, C.W. Parcell, Mrs. P. Tenten and A.E. Suraham.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J.M. James and Mrs. C. Parker.

WELCOME TO COUNCILLORS.

The Town Mayor congratulated Councillor Mrs. Harris upon her election to the Town Council and Councillor Parcell upon his return.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that in the last month engagements had included:-

- i) Huntingdon and Godmanchester Carnival, 23 June
- ii) The Civic Service, 24 June
- iii) Houghton Poultry Research Station Open Day, 28 June
- iv) High Sherriff's Reception, 29 June
- v) Huntingdon Civic Service, 1 July
- vi) Huntingdon Youth Band at the George Hotel
- vii) Peterborough City Mayor Making, 11 July
- viii) RAF Wyton Open Day, 15 July and
- ix) Ramser Civic Service, 22 July.

The Town Council were reminded of the arrangements being made for the Remembrance Sunday Services: at the Memorial in the morning and at the Parish Church in the evening.

84/24(a) MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21 June 1984 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor subject to it being recorded in connection with Minute 84/24 that the Town Council - after having received information about the account from Tecky's for glazing repairs at the Queen Elizabeth School - had agreed that urgent works or payments should be carried out or made after a minimum of six Councillors had been consulted.

Arising out of the Minutes, and upon the receipt of further information, it was noted and/or agreed

Minute 84/17 - that having regard to the impracticality of placing another seat in the garden of the nonconformist Chapel, the John Bester seat be retained and bolted down outside the Queen Elizabeth School:

that the Town Mayor deserved the Town Council's congratulations for the arrangements made for the Civic Service;

Minute 84/18(c) - that the Working Party would note observations made on the sizes and standard of existing public conveniences:

Minute 84/22 - that the decision originally made be endorsed, and

Minute 84/24 - that works estimated to cost not more than £50 be authorised by an order under the signature of the Town Clerk: works estimated to exceed £50 to be authorised in consultation with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

(Councillor Mrs. Middlemiss has left the meeting temporarily)

84/25 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. Working Party

Councillor Hopkinson gave a detailed report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Working Party held on the 24th July, 1984 when it had been learned that the District Council had agreed to the re-siting of the public conveniences on School Hill as an integral scheme with the Queen Elizabeth School extensions; and for the entire scheme to be designed and controlled by a single architect. The Working Party had examined a further design of the extensions (referred to as Plan 10) and had raised queries in respect of access for maintenance to water services. One means of overcoming difficulties would have taken the toilet block out of line with the rest of the extensions and it was hoped that this could be avoided. Members of the Town Council commented upon Plan 10 to the effect that District Council standard public conveniences appeared to have inadequate light (roof lights were suggested as an option), and that a reduction in the number of cubicles was preferable to the cramped facilities otherwise provided. It was also observed that a single entrance to disabled facilities from outside the School extensions was the most appropriate.

It was agreed that the Architect would discuss the various compromises with the District Council and thereafter prepare a detailed plan with costings.

RESOLVED.- that the foregoing report by the Working Party be accepted with appreciation.

84/26 PLAYScheme 1984

The Town Mayor reported that Mr. Peter Hesletine had kindly agreed to attend for the purpose of providing information on the preparations for the Playscheme 1984. Thereupon the Town Council agreed to receive the following report from Mr. Hesletine:-

- i) up to 250 children were eligible to attend although between 150 and 200 was a more likely figure;
- ii) the programme would be concentrated entirely at the school;
- iii) the theme would be the History of Godmanchester;
- iv) four permanent leaders would be present and ten or more parents had indicated interests in assisting;
- v) scrap materials for practical work would be gladly received at the school.

The Town Clerk reported with respect to financial aspects as follows:-

Materials and publicity (already incurred)	£93.26
Payments to leaders	£960.00
Petty cash during the Playscheme	£75.00
Payment to caretaker	£50.00
Action Space Mobile (pre-visit)	£280.00

It was further reported that although the balance of payment to Action Space Mobile would become due, two amounts of grant would be forthcoming and the outcome should be at or about the budgetted figure of £2,000.

Resolved.- that the above reports be received with thanks and that the payments be authorised.

84/27 GODSPA

On behalf of the Godspa Working Party, Councillor Hopkinson reported that he and Councillor James had had recent discussions in respect of items of capital expenditure which still needed to be determined. They were currently seeking discussions with Godspa officers with whom they would be airing areas of concern. It was clear, however, that strong support from the community was needed.

84/28 STANDING ORDERS

The Town Mayor reminded the Town Council of the intention to debate the necessity or otherwise of formally adopting Standing Orders when vacancies in membership had been filled. Thereupon the Town Council rehearsed the details which had led to their earlier decision not to adopt Standing Orders. Among the arguments against adoption, it was suggested, was the possibility of Standing Orders being used to manipulate; whereas a combination of goodwill, goodnature and humour brought unanticipated benefits. Other Councillors took the view also that the Town Council managed more than adequately without formally having adopted Standing Orders. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that the earlier decision not to adopt Standing Orders be endorsed.

(Councillor Mrs. Conway requested that it be recorded that she had voted against the foregoing decision).

84/29 PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Mayor and the Town Clerk gave details relating to the progress of items previously dealt with by the Town Council which, with the assistance of Councillor Lewis appeared to need highlighting. In respect of the items considered it was noted and/or agreed:

- i) that the outcome of the amenity seats and the John Bester seat be noted;
- ii) that as the original decision with respect to the maintenance of fire extinguishers was incapable of being fulfilled, the action taken by the Town Clerk in instructing Fire Protection Services Ltd., including the appropriate annual maintenance agreement, be confirmed;
- iii) that the earlier decision to remove the flag pole from the Town Hall be rescinded and that arrangements be made, when appropriate, for the flag pole to be refurbished;
- iv) that the actions taken in obtaining a grant and a loan to service the repairs to the Town Hall be noted and that further tenders be sought on the basis of the original specification;
- v) that the response from the County Director of Transportation that cul-de-sac signs in York Close, or any other close, were unnecessary having regard to the meaning of the word "Close";
- vi) that a steel arm barrier be placed at the junction of the Mill Yard bridge and the recreation ground.

84/30 TOWNING

Further consideration was given to the earlier decision to ask the Town Mayor and Mayoress to represent the Town Council at the anniversary to be held in Salon-de-Provence in September, 1984. It was reclected that the Town Mayor would be unable to attend but

that the Deputy Town Mayor would be in a position to attend. However, it had been ascertained that flight costs would be £179 per person, in addition to which the Town Council had agreed to make a gift to the value of £25 and provide up to £100 to help meet incidental hospitality expenses.

Following a discussion of the issues involved, it was

Resolved.- that the Deputy Town Mayor, with Mrs. Honkinson, be authorised to represent the Town Council in Salon-de-Provence.

Twinning Working Party.

The Town Mayor and Councillor Doherty gave details of arrangements made to receive visitors from Wertheim and Salon-de-Provence from the 30th August to 1st September, 1984 and particular attention was given to the amended arrangements for the Saturday night function which was now to be a formal reception at the Huntindon Town Hall and in respect of which each Town Council was being asked to contribute £300. Upon failing to agree that the maximum contribution should be £150, it was

Resolved.- that the Working Party be authorised to negotiate a lower contribution than that requested.

(Councillors Mrs. Middlemiss and Mrs. Conway here left the meeting).

84/31 ROAD SWEEPING

Councillor Lewis explained that the growth of Godmanchester required an additional road sweeper to be utilised and the Town Council, having heard from Councillor Doherty about the restraints currently being placed upon the finances of principal councils

Resolved.- that the request made by Councillor Lewis be submitted to the District Council.

84/32 RECREATION GROUND LITTER BINS

Councillor Lewis drew attention to the vandalised and unsatisfactory state of the litter bins on the Recreation Ground and, following a discussion of various options, it was

Resolved.- (a) that the litter bins adjacent to the lock be removed, and

(b) that quotations for the supply of more adequate litter bins on the recreation ground be obtained.

84/33 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A financial statement for 1983/84 and one to the 30 June 1984 were presented (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book)

84/34 GODMANCHESTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Details were given in a letter from the Chief Education Officer dated the 16 July, 1984 of meetings to be held at which the future development of the primary school was to be considered. A representative of the Town Council was requested.

Resolved.- that Councillor Lewis be authorised to attend the meeting to be held at 5.30 p.m. on the 12th September 1984, and that any representations made on the principle of a community school be endorsed.

The Town Council also agreed to discuss at a future meeting the principle of making a financial contribution towards the school development.

84/15 RECREATION GROUND MAINTENANCE

The Town Clerk reported with respect to allegations made in a letter in a local newspaper concerning the grass maintenance, fouling by dogs and litter and the offer made to join a working party to deal with any of the foregoing items. The Town Council were informed that the Recreation Ground had always been semi-wild and that no specific policy for its development had been determined. After receiving further observations about the state of the river bank and overgrown trees adjacent to the swanns, it was

Resolved.- that the subject of the Recreation Ground be considered at the next meeting.

84/16 USE OF RECREATION GROUND BY GODMANCHESTER ROVERS F.C.

The Town Clerk reported a request for the use of a football pitch on the Recreation Ground notwithstanding that the former changing accommodation was no longer available. It was understood that the club would provide its own posts and nets. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- that Godmanchester Rovers F.C. be granted use of the Recreation Ground for a football pitch at the appropriate seasonal charge made by the District Council.

84/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to requests by the Director of Planning for some previous decisions to be reconsidered and to new applications, whereupon it was

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

- (a) Extension, 11 Windsor Road - APPROVAL
- (b) Change of use to Chandlery etc., The Boathaven, The Avenue . REFUSAL
Adhere to previous decision - overintensification
- (c) Demolition of barns, Silver Farm, Silver Street REFUSAL
Adhere to previous decision
- (d) Ten dwellings, Silver Farm, Silver Street REFUSAL
Adhere to previous decision
- (e) Extension to Cricket Pavilion - APPROVAL
(Councillors B.P. and Mrs. J. Doherty, W.R. Looker and C.W. Parcell declared interests in the foregoing application and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)
- (f) one 3 bay and retention of mobiles, County Primary School - APPROVAL
- (g) Double garage, Silver Farm, Silver Street - REFUSAL
- (h) Health and Fitness Centre, 33 Roman Way - APPROVAL
- (i) Residential adj. 41 London Street - APPROVAL
- (j) Extension to provide groundfloor bathroom, 35 West Street- APPROVAL
- (k) Three dwellings, Old Court Hall- APPROVAL

(1) Dwelling, adj. 12 Orchard Way -

REFUSAL

84/78 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved -

St. Mary's Men's Group	£160. 50
J.A. Devle	121. 77
Inland Revenue	43. 50
Petty Cash	50. 00
Fire Protection Services	
Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd.	25. 00

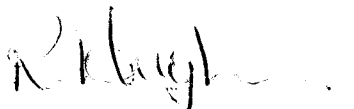
84/39 USE OF MRS. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

The Town Council give consideration to the current users of the School and

Resolved.- (a) that the Buttermel Project Group be permitted the use of the School for a further month but that the use be cancelled if no improvement in the behaviour of the users is made;

(b) that the key to the School be handed only to persons whose names and telephone numbers are known; and

(c) that in the interests of safety, the Aerobics Group be requested to roll up their mats after use.



Tom Havor