

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester on the 22 November, 1984

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

Apologies: Received on behalf of Mrs. Lewis & Mrs. Parcell

84/82 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting and of the special meeting held on the 18th October and 7th November, 1984 respectively, were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Town Mayor.

Arising therefrom it was noted:

- a) that in connection with Minute 84/70, the proceedings of a meeting held on the Recreation Ground between the Town Mayor and a representative of the Director of Planning were awaited;
- b) that in connection with item c) of the same Minute, the financial commitment towards recreation and amenity would be seen in the light of a letter received from the Chairman of the Primary School Governors concerning the development of a community school.
- c) that in connection with Minute 84/72, the new street name off Silver Street is to be Allen Farm Close;
- d) that in connection with Minute 84/77, consideration would be given to the necessity for insurance - and to safe anchorage - for the Christmas Tree to be provided and lighted by the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School: and
- e) that in connection with allotments, payment by the Allotment Association "was available for collection".

84/83 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that since the last meeting he had attended:

- i) the BMX Presentations,
- ii) the formal launching of the Huntingdon Local Enterprise Agency,
- iii) the District Council Chairman's Reception, and
- iv) a Reception at U.S.A.F. Mildenhall.

The Deputy Town Mayor drew attention to gifts received during his formal visit to Salon de Provence, which included a crossbow given by the local council of Gubio, Italy.

84/84 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- (a) that the following payments be approved:-

Eastern Electricity	£19. 05
J. A. Davie	£120. 00
Inland Revenue	43. 50
E.W. Elphick & Sons Ltd.	£200. 00
Headley Stokes Associates	57. 84
Godspa	20. 00

(b) that the charge to the Salvation Army for the use of the Queen Elizabeth School be waived.

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) two houses, 21 London Street | APPROVAL |
| b) house, 10 Orchard Way | REFUSAL |
| (adhere to previous decision for the grounds then stated and suggest that the development should comprise no more than a bungalow or a chalet bungalow) | |
| c) Extensions, 18 Cambridge Villas | APPROVAL |

84/86 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. Working Party

On behalf of the Working Party, Councillor Hopkinson reported the outcome of their most recent deliberations with the Architect and presented Plans 15 and 16 which showed the general layout of the Queen Elizabeth School and the details of the proposed extensions. It was indicated that in order to retain the intended symmetry the entrance to the disabled persons toilet had been repositioned. In all other respects, the drawings reflected the wishes of the Town Council.

The report included details of proposed works to the existing buildings and the main items were estimated to cost as follows:-

	£		£
replace all pointing	3,120	New flooring	6,665
" faulty brickwork	2,250	heating system	5,000
window stonework	2,300	renovate walls -	
		including dpc	3,475

It was observed that the estimated total costs of the extensions and renovations were £70,000 made up as follows:

Proposed extensions	£26,000
Refurbishments and repairs	£42,000
Contingency	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>£70,000</u>

Councillor Hopkinson concluded by reporting that the Working Party were of the opinion that whereas the greater aspects of the works should be undertaken in due course, some works were essential and should be put in hand forthwith, namely, repairs to the brickwork at the rear of the small hall (which should include re-hanging the school bell), the hanging of a temporary side gate and the provision of additional keys to the outer gate.

Details were also given in Plan No. 17 of suggested parking re-arrangements on Mill Yard.

In taking note of the foregoing, the Town Council also were presented with the proposals for making community provision at the primary school, to which it was hoped the Town Council would make a generous financial contribution. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- (a) that the details of the schemes presented in Plans 15, 16 and 17 be approved for submission to the District Council as amendments to previous plans:

(b) that the Working Party with the Architect now seek to identify all available sources of grant:

(c) that whilst noting that the estimated cost of the works described is £70,000 - subsequent works for (i) internal fittings and facilities to the School, (ii) redesign and layout of School Hill and (iii) the alterations to the layout of Mill Yard car park are also noted.

(d) that a payment of £57.84 be made to Headley Stokes Associates for the printing and provision of drawings so far:

(e) that a temporary side gate be hung between the School and the existing public toilets:

(f) that repairs be carried out immediately to the rear gable wall (including the re-hanging of the school bell) at a maximum cost of £350.00. and

(g) that the Architect be authorised to obtain two additional keys to the outside iron gate.

Arising out of the foregoing, the Town Council concluded that at the earliest opportunity, details of the proposals and those associated with the intended community school should be publicly displayed; and noted that, whilst the community school provisions were attractive, the maintenance of the Queen Elizabeth School was essential in order to preserve the character of that part of Godmanchester.

84/87 GODSPA

Councillor ^{Hopkins} referred to the two items authorised for payment with the Accounts (Minute 84/84(a)) in respect of curtains, rail and shelving at the Godspa Pavilion and reported (i) that there was to be a Cheese and Wine event for fund raising on the 28th December, 1984 and (ii) a meeting of the Working Party with Godspa Committees on the 9th January, 1985.

(The Town Council noted that having regard to his general declaration of interest in Godspa matters, Councillor W.R. Looker did not speak or vote in respect of any of the foregoing matters).

84/88 PLAYScheme 1984

A comprehensive report and details of accounts prepared by Mr. Peter Heseltine was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). In receiving the report, the Town Council noted the problem associated with the grant by Saatchi and Saatchi, and that Mr. Heseltine was processing the grant from the Eastern Arts Association.

84/89 RECREATION GROUND

(a) Application for Wayleaves.

An application by Mr. D. Clifton for permission to cross the Recreation Ground to his property in a motor vehicle on irregular occasions, and to place services beneath the Recreation Ground to serve his property was submitted. In giving consideration to the application, the Town Council affirmed that there was no intention on their part to deprive Mr. Clifton of access to his property and recognised the legitimacy of his wish to service it. However, the Town Council concurred that they could not grant a parking facility on the Recreation Ground. Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- that Mr. D. Clifton be granted ^{annual} licence renewable

upon payment of £10 for permission to cross the Recreation Ground in a motor vehicle between Mill Yard and the Island, and for water and electricity services between the same points subject to

- 1) the preclusion of parking upon the Recreation Ground, and
- 2) the Town Council being indemnified and kept indemnified against any claims arising from the use of a motor vehicle on the Recreation Ground and the presence of the services beneath the Recreation Ground, and
- 3) the making good of the surface of the Recreation Ground and damage caused thereto by the vehicle or the services.

(b) Repairs.

The Town Council gave consideration to a letter from the Director of Technical Services dated the 13th November, 1984 which referred to repairs to play equipment, the laying of Cambark and repairs to the Jubilee Hut and in connection thereto

Resolved.- that the Director of Technical Services be requested to provide an estimate of the cost of

(a) relocating the play equipment closer together, including the sandpit, and surrounding by a suitable fence and gate; and

(b) carrying out repairs to the Jubilee Hut, including the provision of free-standing but bolted-to-the-ground seats.

84/90 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS AND/OR LOAN. (a) Huntingdon Athletic Club.

Consideration was given to an application by Huntingdon Athletic Club for a grant towards the cost of providing a pavilion at the track at the outdoor complex of the St. Ivo Centre. Details were given of the sources of finance being probed and of the proportion of Club members who resided in Godmanchester. However, the Town Council adhered to the view that such grants should be reserved for Godmanchester based activities and it was

Resolved.- that the Huntingdon Athletic Club be informed that the Town Council regret they are unable to accede to the request for a grant.

(c) Godmanchester Cricket Club.

(Councillor James declared a pecuniary interest in this subject and left the meeting during its discussion and determination).

The Town Council gave consideration to a letter from the Cricket Club dated the 23rd October, 1984 which contained details of extensive works the Club wished to have carried out at a cost approaching £8,000, of which it was requested that the Town Council make a grant of £4,000 and an interest free loan of the balance. The view was taken by the Town Council that Club members should take more personal responsibility for giving money or making interest free loans and that they could not commit any funds in either form to the project at the present time. Whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Cricket Club be informed of the foregoing and advised to seek an interest free loan through the District Council; and that, if necessary, the Town Council give further consideration to the subject when the outcome is known.

84/91 PRECEPT 1985/86

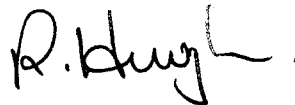
The Town Council gave preliminary consideration to the items for which provision should be made in the budget for the next financial year and paid particular attention to the financing of the Queen Elizabeth School and any contribution towards facilities at the proposed community school to be provided at Park Lane. A financial statement and draft budget prepared by the Town Clerk was examined - a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book. After taking into account the fact that provision of the community school would not start until 1986/87 it was

Resolved.- that in giving consideration to the Precept for 1985/86 at the next meeting, the draft budget should include provision for the Queen Elizabeth School as shown in Minute 84/86 above and a sum of £6,000 for Recreation and Amenity.

84/92 GODMANCHESTER CHARITIES

Consideration was given to a letter dated the 26th October, 1984 from the Clerk to the Trustees of Godmanchester Charities which indicated that, although the term of office of the Trustees appointed in 1980 had expired it would be convenient if all six were re-appointed having regard to the advanced stage reached in the re-organisation of the Charities and the likely problems to be confronted by a new Trustee who was unfamiliar with the situation. In the circumstances, the Town Council

Resolved.- that for the reasons given the following be re-appointed as Trustees of the Godmanchester Charities:- Councilor Mrs. E.C. Conway,
Councillor B.P. Doherty
Mr. R.J. Lomax
Mrs. J.M. McCartney
Mr. B.R. Walsh, and
Mr. C.H. Summers



Town Mayor

Godmanchester Holiday Playscheme

The 1984 Playscheme was the second to be organised by the Godmanchester Town Council since the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Schemes were separated.

To develop a greater involvement with the community, the Town Council set up a sub-committee to act as a co-ordinating group, which consisted of :

Members of the Town Council

P. Docherty

R. Hughes

Mrs C. Parker

Members of Godmanchester Community Association

Mrs M. Bramwell

Mrs H. Hollington

Additional Members

Mr B. Brown, Headmaster, Godmanchester Primary School

Mr P. Heseltine

At the first meeting of the sub-committee it was decided to adopt a different approach for the 1984 scheme. The scheme would have three main aims :

- * to provide a playscheme which would enhance the children's play opportunities and be specifically designed to extend the creative nature of their play

- * to involve parents as much as possible with the intention of developing a local play association to run future schemes

- * to provide a community event

As a subsidiary aim it was felt important to help the children identify with the town in which they lived and help them to take an interest and pride in it.

To assist with these ideas, a professional community Arts Team - Action Space Mobile - was approached and following discussions it was agreed they should undertake a week's residency with input beforehand to provide information, stimulation and training.

A public meeting and a training day were held before the summer holidays to interest parents in what was being planned. Although these did not bring in as many people as some had hoped, the response was nevertheless typical of similar meetings in similar communities. Those who attended seem to find the idea stimulating

To run the scheme, an approach was made to a temporarily unemployed playworker known to one of the committee - Robin Morley. He had worked with Action Space Mobile previously and was also able to suggest a community arts worker, Karen With as a suitable second member of the team. A card in the Huntingdon Job Centre provided two

more playworkers - Teresa Lister and Tina Seiler, both of whom lived locally and knew each other.

The three-week scheme ran from August 6 -25 and proved to be very successful with 167 children being registered. The involvement of the community arts team added an unusual dimension to the last week. The week's residency started with the arrival of characters from the town's past including a millworker (discovered near the car park), a flyer (who had missed Portholme) and a Elizabethan Town Crier (on School Hill). Each character had a special area of interest - music, singing, puppetry, drama, model making, hot-air balloons, fire structures etc. which he or she developed with the children over the week, building up a relationship and a part of the story towards a final celebration at the end of the week.

The community event on the final evening attracted several hundred children and parents and was an extremely enjoyable evening in which everyone participated. It linked together many of the artistic and creative activities in which the children had been involved.

Through circumstances beyond the control of the committee it has not been possible to call a follow-up meeting as soon as they wished but it is still planned.

Financially, the scheme proved to be more expensive than originally planned but grants from the Eastern Arts Association and Saatchi and Saatchi and a very successful raffle by Pat Doherty during the family event ensured no extra expenditure was incurred by the Town Council.

THANKS

Playworkers : Robin Morley, Karen With, Tina Seiler, Teresa Lister

Children and Young Adults : Over 200 children and young people joined in the activities - too many to name - but their part in the activities has made the playscheme a great success.

Adults who came and joined in : Helen, Tony, Maureen, Byron, Jean, Leslie, Lynda, Viv and Joanne, Mary, Karen, Martin, Jim, Veronica, Marion, Jackie, Christine, Tim, Linda, Sheena and many others.

Thanks also to : Godmanchester Primary School Governors and Cambridgeshire Education Committee, Jeff Wicks (for tremendous help and support), Pat Doherty, Bob Hughes, Bill Looker, Mrs Chandler, Harry, Hilda, Kiku Horinouchi, NPFA Midlands Resource Centre, Birmingham, Gemma Watts, John Lewis, the Cricket Club, the Black Bull, the White Hart, Redlands Ltd., M & D Thody Ltd., Myers Ltd., Queensway.

Financial thanks to : Godmanchester Town Council for the main funding; Saatchi and Saatchi for funding one playworker; Eastern Arts Association for assistance towards the community arts aspects.

PLAYSCHEME DIARY

WEEK ONE

Monday

Several children well before 9 a.m. to greet us when we arrive. Introductions and remembering names with a ball game. Harry (the inflatable) introduced but he is getting old and split so Red Bed out. Two casualties - one boy taken to hospital with suspected strained elbow and sprained ankle. Badge machine (for children to make name badges) very popular and the patient children (100+) good at queuing. In the afternoon inflatable, games and ideas for activities taken.

Tuesday

Flag and bunting making. Harry occupied us for a few hours. Water play, rounders and co-operative games. Sprained ankle and a few bumped heads. Picture drawing. Several mums - and one dad come in to help. Competition for a flag for Godmanchester. Pendant making and the start of making the Godmanchester Playscheme Banner.

Wednesday

Start the production of the newsheet, finish the banner and hang it on the fence. More flag making. Model making - lost of space ideas. Helen sprains wrist on Harry. Rounders, co-operative and parachute games.

Thursday

Finish newsheet 1. Games, inflatable, arts and crafts. Community policeman visits.

Friday

Good sunny day for the barbecue - lot of parents and children. Adults v. children rounders match. Harry has another hole. Parachute games. More flags made. Children getting better at cleaning up.

WEEK TWO

Monday

Swimming for the under-eight's. Ten go off with five adults. Monsters and ghosts made from potato sacks, rounders and continuous cricket. Atmosphere much better and organisation better. Quite a few parents - even some dads. Cleaning up quick and reasonably efficient.

Tuesday

Water fight a great success - everyone gets soaked. Model making, painting, parachute and kite flying. Fire Brigade made a quick visit - coming again on Friday. Ideas session for last week. Bicycle procession promised.

Wednesday

Second news sheet started. Swimming at St Peter's for 9-11's. Models, kites, swan masks made. Press photographer comes. Rounders and other games.

Thursday

Swimming at Hinchingsbrooke. Harry out. Model making, painting, kites rounders, table tennis table arrives. Swan masks continued.

Friday

Very hot day. Barbecue successful with added spare ribs brought by one mother. More swan masks! Dancing, games with parachute, kites. Cleaning up a bit of a problem.

Sunday

Meeting with Action Space to discuss plans for Monday.

WEEK THREE

Monday

Arrival of Action Space. A lot of children/adults saw 'strange goings-on' on their way to the playscheme. "There's a man dead in the tree"... "No, he's not, he moves when you touch him".... "He says he's from the 1900's" etc. Two more characters arrive on site and set off with the children for a tour of the town to collect up these strange characters.... "it's loonies day today". A lot of activity when they arrive back and split into groups. Generally a hive of activity.

Tuesday

Hot day. Group activities with Action Space characters - waterwheel, cooking and singing, fire structures, mummers play, games, hot-air

Wednesday

Sewing costumes, more cooking, mummers, fire, bikes, dance practice, finishing off masks, games, rounders. Lots of parents becoming involved - some have spent more time here than their children!

Thursday

Lots of excitement as the individual groups get ready for rehearsals and the arena is constructed. Parents and children enjoy barn dance practice. Average of 80 children and ten parents at each session. Fire sculpture swan is finally erected by parents and Action Space. Playing Field Supervisor arrives and says he will go back on holiday until we have gone!

Friday

Final preparations continue. Grand rehearsal in afternoon. People taking part return at 6p.m. to get ready. At 7.30 p.m. parents and other children arrive for the party - approx. 300. Children do their performances and everyone joins in a barn dance.

Saturday

Clear up operation by parents, Action Space and playworkers

ACCOUNTS

<u>Income</u>		VAT
Godmanchester Town Council	2000	
Saatchi and Saatchi	240	
Eastern Arts Association	200	
Draw	32.90	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>2472.90</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Action Space Mobile - training & pre-visits	200	30
Action Space Mobile - fee	1000	150
Staffing 4 @ #80 p.w.	960	
Petty Cash	75	
Printing	25	
Materials - NPFA	50.76	
Materials - Notts.Educational Supplies	34.73	5.20
Insurance	25	
Caretaking	50	
Miscellaneous materials	23.37	
Pre-scheme expenses: R.Morley	25	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>2469.76</u>