

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the Meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 21st March, 1985.

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.M. James, J.H. Lewis, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss, L. Miller, C.W. Parcell, A.E. Sursham and Mrs. P. Tenten.

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors W.R. Looker and Mrs. C. Parker.

The Town Mayor welcomed and introduced Chief Inspector Crane to the Town Council who gave a brief resume of crime statistics in relation to Godmanchester which, although happily low enough to present few problems, gave no cause for complacency. The Chief Inspector went on to indicate that policing attitudes and schedules were the same for both Huntingdon and Godmanchester; and that police cover was automatically arranged when the local policeman was absent.

In response to questions, Chief Inspector Crane replied that in the case of vandalism, most damage was done on the spur of the moment and could not be anticipated by law enforcers, but that public involvement by informing the Police quickly - and possibly by the use of "citizens' arrest" - was of paramount importance in any endeavour to maintain law and order and could not be under-stated.

On the subject of night-time policing, the Chief Inspector explained that personnel were evenly spaced throughout daytime and night-time; darkness prevented officers from being so easily seen as during the daylight hours - and that most burglaries took place during the night. As far as the level of police personnel was concerned, Huntingdon's level was in proportion to the Force area.

The Chief Inspector concluded by emphasizing that most crime was solved through information volunteered by the general public, and hoped that assistance in this manner would continue.

The Town Mayor thanked Chief Inspector Crane for attending and hoped that a similar exercise might take place in six months or so. Whereupon the Chief Inspector left the meeting.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Town Mayor announced

- (a) that he had, in a civic capacity attended at the opening of the new Barber's Shop; and
- (b) had attended the St. Ives Civic Ball;
- (c) that the Churchyard wall repair had been carried out by Mr. D.P. Walsh whose work on the Town Hall was generally well appreciated, and whom he hoped would undertake to install the Recreation Ground barrier - for which transport from Somersham needed to be arranged; and
- (d) that some tickets were still available for the Civic Reception and Dinner at the Black Bull Hotel on the 29th March, 1985.

84/117 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 21 February and of the Special Meeting held on the 12 March 1985 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Town Mayor subject to there being added a reference to (i) a footpath from Muir housing development to the play area and (ii) to the Recreation Ground Byelaws, in Minute 84/111.

Arising therefrom it was agreed and/or noted:-

(a) that as indicated in the Town Mayor's announcements on the 21st February, 1985, the Recreation and Amenity Working Party had met the Assistant Director of Technical Services on the Recreation Ground on the 21st March, 1985 and a report was awaited upon the feasibility and costs of re-siting the play equipment where necessary and repair and re-siting of the Jubilee Hut; work would be undertaken on the steps and to level the ground at the MillYard end. It was hoped that a working party might also carry out some filling of holes in the footpath surface;

(b) that in relation to Minute 84/107(b)(ii), the District Planning Committee had concurred with the views of the Town Council and had refused planning permission for a dwelling adjacent to 11 Park Lane;

(c) that the sale of St. Anne's Lane site had been completed in the sum of £53,845. 65 net;

(d) that the subject of the Cricket Club grant (minute 84/110) might be considered by the Working Party at a week-end or early evening meeting;

(e) that the Town Clerk would continue to deal with the subject of new or amended byelaws for the Recreation Ground;

(f) that the outcome of angling rights and management of Eastside and Westside Commons depended upon where the Lordship of the Manor now rested - and the Town Clerk would seek an opportune moment to pursue the matter with the District Council; and

(g) that having regard to the review of the Structure Plan for Cambridgeshire currently being undertaken which would delay any infrastructure proposals contained in the Huntingdon Area Local Plan, any suggestion that development such as the 355 houses off London Road could be contained within current strategic provision should be refuted.

84/118 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following consideration of two applications, it was

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

(a) Conversion to form 1st floor Manager's flat, John's Freezer Centre, Post Street - REFUSAL

the original proposals were for commercial use only

(b) Demolition of outhouse and garage and rebuild as two-storey extension, 17 Windsor Road - APPROVAL

84/119 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved:-

Godmanchester St. Mary's Men's Group	£162. 50
S.S. Motors (Fuels) Ltd.	202. 00
John Smith & Sons Ltd.	64. 40
A.E. Sursham	411. 00
J. A. Davie	123. 62
Inland Revenue	43. 50
G. Jermy	345. 00
Betty cash	30. 00
Aldridge & Cooper (Builders) Ltd.	351. 90

84/120 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING MATTERS

Councillor Lewis explained his view that there was a likelihood that decisions could be taken on planning matters to which the Members of the Council had given little attention unless notice of their consideration had been given, with which view the Town Council generally agreed. Whereupon it was

Resolved.- that no planning application should be considered by the Council or any sub-committee without at least three days notice of such application.

84/121 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

Councillor Hopkinson reported that Listed Building and planning permission had been received, with which was a condition that the "Bailiff Stone" presently incorporated in buildings to be demolished should be incorporated in the structure of the extensions. The Working Party would be meeting shortly with the Architect and in the meantime the strategy to be followed in letting contracts and managing the schemes for both the extensions and the public conveniences would be confirmed with the District Council.

The Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School and the Community Association had enquired about the treatment to be given to the existing School Buildings. The Friends would undertake to fund the provision of floor coverings and curtains; and the Community Association wished to be involved in colour scheme selection. The foregoing information was given by Councillor James who would represent the Town Council at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School in June, 1985.

The Town Council agreed that full details of the Queen Elizabeth School proposals should be displayed and given at the Annual Town Meeting on the 18th April, 1985; and that also an opportunity should be given for the "Community School" provision to be discussed.

84/122 GODSPA

Councillor Hopkinson gave information about future works to be carried out at the Godspa Pavilion which would account for the unexpended balance of the £2,000 allocated to Godspa. He added that, in his view, the forthcoming year would be a crucial one for the Association.

The Town Clerk reported that appropriate insurance in respect of the Adventure Play Area would be provided by Municipal Insurance Ltd. in the sum of £6.75 for public liability and 90p per £100 applied to the total value of the Play equipment, subject to an exclusion of the first £25 of any claim. Whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Town Council undertake the insurance liabilities for the Adventure Playground in the sums quoted by Municipal Insurance Ltd.

84/123 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SURVEY

The Town Council, having been acquainted with the outcome of a survey conducted by the County Council and of the proposal to place a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Mill Yard to Readwell's shop, expressed surprise at such a conclusion and

Resolved.- that the County Council be informed that in their view greater precedence should be given to establishing a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the White Hart public house, at whatever cost, thus releasing the present School Crossing Patrol to operate in Post Street in the vicinity of Mill Yard.

84/124 TOWN HALL

Councillor Sursham gave a brief report upon the Contractor's progress and explained that he had accepted that 23 working days had been lost in the contract period by reason of inclement weather. The Town Council endorsed the view that the penalty clause would not be applied in the circumstances, and, furthermore, congratulated the contractor upon the standard of workmanship being achieved.

84/125 RECREATION GROUND Right of Way.

The Town Council, having had copies of a letter dated the 26th February and a further letter dated 20th March, 1985 from Mr. D. Clifton (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book), re-iterated their decision that the rights of way should be offered to Mr. Clifton on an annual basis.

84/126 TREES.

Information was given about a former Cherry tree which had been removed from adjacent to the south side of the Town Hall, and which the Civic Society wished to have replaced - and also about an offer to plant a tree in memory of Miss Noel Hunnybun.

In respect of the former, the Town Council learned that it had been a self-seeded tree and decided that a replacement would be out of place in the same position. However, in respect of the latter offer, the Town Council accepted the offer with pleasure and asked the Recreation and Amenity Working Party to select a suitable site - possibly the Nonconformist Burial Ground.

84/127 MAINTENANCE OF CHURCHYARD

An offer in the sum of £700 for grass cutting was submitted by the Men's Group for 1985 and it was

Resolved.- that the Men's Group be employed to maintain the Churchyard grass in 1985 in the sum of £700.

84/128 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 and the press be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the remaining business.

84/129 THE TOWN HALL. Lease to Senior Citizens' Club.

The Town Mayor and the Town Clerk gave information with regard to the decision taken by the former Huntingdon & Godmanchester Borough Council in 1972 and with regard to proposals which would lead to the Town Council's interest in the Town Hall being satisfactorily protected. The Town Council endorsed the view that no steps should be taken which would deprive the Senior Citizens' Club of its use and thereupon

Resolved.- that the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor, together with the Town Clerk, be authorised to pursue the matter with the Senior Citizens' Club and that a further report be presented before any possible legal action is taken.


Town Mayor

Note for information

At a private and informal meeting of Town Councillors held at the conclusion of the Meeting of the Town Council, and having considered two nominations for the Office of Mayor in 1985/86, namely ~~Counsi~~llors B.P. Doherty and A.E. Sursham, Councillor B.P. Doherty was selected as Town Mayor elect.