

MINUTES of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Godmanchester, on the 25th April, 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, R.W. Looker, Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss, L. Miller, C.W. Parcell, A.E. Sursham and Mrs. P. Tenten.

Apologies for absence from the meeting were presented on behalf of Councillor Mrs.C. Parker.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that the month had been a very busy one and that he had attended a number of events among which had been:

- a) Huntingdon Town Mayor's Charity Ball;
- b) a Reception at R.A.F. Alconbury;
- c) the opening of new factory premises for Bright Instruments Ltd.,, Huntingdon; and
- d) the District Council Chairman's Charity Ball.

He also announced that the proceeds of the raffle held at the Civic Reception and Dinner at the Black Bull Hotel on the 29th March, 1985 had realised £129 and that as a result of the Fashion Show sponsored by Beryl's Fashions a further £150 had been added to the Town Mayor's Charity Fund - making a total of £675 in the year.

In relation to a communication from the honorary Macebearer in which the regularity of "quarterly" meetings was questioned and an indication given that Dr. Middlemiss was prepared to attend more meetings with the mace - but that occasions might arise when he would be absent by reason of more freedom to take holidays in his imminent retirement - the Town Mayor asked whether the appointment of a deputy honorary macebearer might be considered. On the question of the timetable of meetings and those at which robes might be worn, the Town Council indicated their satisfaction with the arrangements followed thus far and, on the question of a deputy honorary macebearer

Resolved.- that Mr. G.J. Brown be offered the appointment of Deputy Honorary Macebearer.

The Town Mayor gave information about a visit by M. Jean Pierre Chapel to Huntingdon and Godmanchester from the 26th to the 28th April. It was reported that M. Chapel was a Deputy Maire of Salon de Provence and was to participate in a number of functions and a working lunch with a view to promoting greater vigour in the twinning activity, particularly by the two Comprehensive Schools. Details of the week-end programme were given and of the responsibility allocated to Godmanchester to host the visitor on Friday evening the 26th April, 1985. The Town Council clearly indicated their dissatisfaction with the lack of prior notice which seemed to feature regularly in arrangements for twinning visits. It was explained that the Town Mayor would be unable to be present at any of the functions but that the Deputy Town Mayor would entertain M. Chapel to dinner at the Black Bull Hotel on the 26th April and attend the working lunch on the following day. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- that £30 be made available towards the cost of

expenses incurred at the Black Bull Hotel.

(Councillors Lewis and Parcell asked that it be recorded that they had voted against the foregoing resolution).

84/131 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March and of the Special Meeting held on the 9th April, 1985 were confirmed as true records and signed by the Town Mayor subject to it being noted that listed building planning permission had not been received in respect of the Queen Elizabeth School (Min. 84/121).

Arising therefrom, and in relation to the record of Chief Inspector Crane's visit to the Council Meeting on the 21st March, 1985, reference was made to the break-in, mindless and wanton damage and theft from the Godspa Clubroom. Photographs of the damage caused were circulated and the Town Council, in expressing sadness on behalf of Godspa, indicated their condemnation of such vandalism.

Arising out of Minute 84/129, it was reported that so far only an acknowledgement of the wish to pursue the use of the Town Hall had been received.

84/132 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following consideration of three applications, it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed of the following recommendations:-

- (a) Conservatory, 9 The Avenue - APPROVAL
- (b) Residential development, St. Anne's Lane/
Cambridge Street - APPROVAL
- (c) Extraction of sand and gravel, Cow Lane - REFUSAL

the Town Council require assurances with respect to the proposals for a footpath around the area to be worked and public access during times of working; the alternative footpath to be in place before extraction commences.

84/133 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved:-

Black Bull Hotel	£140 - 00
Smiths Gore	£120 - 00
Huntingdonshire District Council	£165 - 13
Huntingdonshire District Council	£16,893 - 53
Cambs. Assoc. of Local Councils	£112 - 00
Municipal Mutual Insurance	£284 - 96
Municipal Mutual Insurance	6 - 75
J. A. Davie	£121 - 87
Inland Revenue	43 - 50
Petty Cash	30 - 00

84/134 DISTRICT AUDIT

The Town Clerk reported that the audit of accounts for 1984/85 would take place on the 29th May, 1985 and that notices thereof would be posted.

84/135 RECREATION AND AMENITY

- (a) The Town Mayor reported further to the information given at the Annual Town Meeting with regard to the work to be undertaken by the group of volunteers which was generally to tidy the amenities and carry out clearance of suckers and overgrowth at the Osier beds, to maintain the newly planted trees and to thin, prune or remove trees as necessary across the whole area of the Recreation Ground. In addition, the installation of the Mill Yard barrier would be undertaken.

The Town Council were generally appreciative of the work to be undertaken by the volunteers who, it was understood, were skilled and/or experienced in the use of the necessary tools and equipment. The Town Council concurred that the people concerned should have adequate insurance protection. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- that subject to the necessary adequate insurance cover being effected, the volunteer workforce be authorised to undertake the above described works under the guidance of the Town Mayor, and that expenses for the replacement of tools, cost of materials to a total of £250 be authorised.

- (b) Notes of a meeting of the Recreation and Amenity Working Party held on the 13th April were submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which gave further details of the proposals by the Cricket Club for extending the Pavilion and other works to enhance and preserve The Parks.

(Councillor Mrs. E.C. Conway here left the meeting)

(The Town Council noted Councillor James's adjacent interest in the subject under consideration).

It was reported that of a total estimated cost of between £7,500 and £8,000, the Cricket Club sought a grant of £3,250. Thereupon, in the light of other likely claims upon this particular budget provision, it was

Resolved.- that the extent of the grant application be noted and that the Working Party examine it further together with other projects at their forthcoming meeting.

- (c) Details were given of proposals by the Godmanchester Royal Oak Bowling Club to improve facilities at the Club by the installation of Elsan-type ladies toilets.

(Councillor Mrs. J.B. Doherty declared a pecuniary interest in the subject but at the invitation of the Town Council remained in the meeting)

The urgency of the provision was impressed upon the Town Council and it was reported that a grant of £250 would ensure this. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- That a grant of £250 be made to the Godmanchester Royal Oak Bowls Club.

(It was noted that, having regard to his relationship with Councillor Mrs. Doherty, Councillor B.P. Doherty did not vote in the foregoing matter).

(Councillor Mrs. P. Tenten here left the meeting).

84/136 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

The Town Council recorded the view expressed at the recent Annual Town Meeting by the electors present that work on the extensions to and renovation of the Queen Elizabeth School should proceed as quickly as possible.

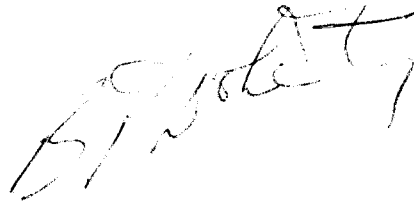
Councillor Hopkinson reported that the District Council had confirmed that the provision of new public conveniences should be part of the Town Council's contract and supervised by one project manager, namely, the Town Council's Architect. On the same subject, the Town Council concurred with the proposal that in order to avoid any likely funding problems, they should seek borrowing consent also for the cost of the public conveniences and recover the loan charges from the District Council.

Having regard to the foregoing, and notwithstanding any interest in a facility for the proposed community school, it was

Resolved.- that no further public consultation is necessary in the matter of the Queen Elizabeth School extensions.

84/137 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1984/85

The Town Clerk presented a financial statement for 1984/85 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and reported that on the basis of the current year's budget he expected the Town Council to work to a balance of around £10,000 or £11,000 at the 31st March, 1986.



Town Mayor