

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Queen Elizabeth School Godmanchester on the 26th September, 1985.

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

Apoloies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M.J. Hopkinson, J.M. James and C.W. Parcell.

PRAYERS

Prayers were said by the Rev. Denis Clark, Mayor's Chaplain.

Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor announced that he had attended, or had been represented at, the Hunts. Art Society's Annual Exhibition, the Civic Ball at Ramsey and at the Change of Command at R.A.F. Alconbury.

He went on to refer to an offer of a seat by Miss Mills to commemorate Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Wells which was to be situated adjacent to Hampton House; and to indicate that, in response to a request for two members to be appointed as Trustees of Sweetings Charity, he had nominated Councillors A.E. Sursham and R.T.D. Hughes. The Town Council concurred with the nominations.

85/55 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd August, 1985 were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Town Mayor. Councillor Mrs. Harris requested that it be recorded that she did not concur with the decision.

85/56 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) Winter storage of 30 caravans, Park Lane Caravan Site  
REAFFIRM APPROVAL
- b) i) Part demolition, refurbishment or existing building and extension to form bridge apartment, 21 Post Street

REFUSAL

- 1. The character of the area will be marred if the proposal is approved as submitted.
- 2. The design of the exterior treatment is not in keeping with the general character of the building.
- 3. The extension, if permitted, would prejudice the amenities of adjacent properties.

- ii) Erection of eleven flats, one bridge apartment, seven garages and ancillary works, 21 Post Street.

REFUSAL

1. The proposal is backland development of a very intensive nature which, if approved, would mar and detract from the character of the Conservation Area.
2. The design is not in keeping with adjacent properties which make up the Conservation Area.
3. The proposal, if approved, would be prejudicial to the amenities of the surrounding area.

c) Removal of boundary hedge to allow access and residential development on 8.2 hectares of land off Silver Street

REFUSAL

1. The application is, at best, premature.
2. The whole of the site is outside the Local Plan Area and in the Draft Plan is shown for possible development after 1991.
3. There is an inadequate foul sewerage facility to cope with existing discharge, let alone the prospect of more than an additional 300 dwellings.
4. Godmanchester's infrastructure is inadequate to meet the demands of such an extensive proposal: and the additional traffic effect would be beyond calculation but extremely harmful to Godmanchester generally: and particularly so in an area where there are already too many parcels of land with planning permission. The basic infrastructure is incapable of supporting further development.

85/57 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

Godmanchester Cricket Club	£3,250 - 00
(Councillor Lewis requested that it be recorded that he did not agree with the payment of the grant in a lump sum)	
Forum Print Ltd.	76. 00
J.A. Davie	122. 42
Inland Revenue	43. 50
Petty cash	30. 00
C. Tollidays & Son Ltd.	191. 83

85/58 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL WORKING PARTY

No formal report was presented but Councillor Hopkinson had indicated in writing as follows, which the Town Clerk submitted :-

1. No tenders had yet been sought - the District Council had been requested to comment upon a suggested list proposed by the Working Party - the matter would return to the Town Council.
2. The District Council's observations upon the appointment of a structural engineer had been sought: and
3. The neighbouring property owners were to be asked to grant licence to enter upon their land for the purpose of access to the works.

85/59 GODSPA WORKING PARTY

No formal report was presented. However, Councillor Looker associated the fact that a possible grant from the Football Trust had not materialised with unsolicited comments of an adverse nature which had been carried in the Press.

85/60 AMENITY AND RECREATION WORKING PARTY

The Town Mayor reported on site visits undertaken by the Working Party and presented observations and recommendations as follows:

Churchyard grass maintenance (including Nonconformist Burial Ground)

Notwithstanding early adverse weather conditions, grass maintenance in the Churchyard was "patchy". The Nonconformist Burial Ground was in a very poor state of maintenance.

Resolved.- that the St. Mary's Men's Club be informed of the Town Council's dissatisfaction.

Recreation Ground - details contained in a letter from the Director of Technical Services presented:

- i) Swings - estimated cost of £660 for safety surface.
- ii) Rocking horse and climbing frame - £450 to re-site and safety surface.
- iii) Roundabout - re-siting not recommended but estimated at £5000.
- iv) Jubilee Hut - impractical to re-site; possible to raise vertically and cast new concrete slab. Alternative is new shelter.

Resolved.- that the matters be referred for further examination by the Working Party with a view to their arranging for the roundabout to be re-sited and the sandpit filled in by local labour.

Old Mill flues - the Working Party to continue to observe having regard to the possibility of future maintenance.

Cemetery - state of retaining walls and possible need for capping. Agents to report on possible expenditure.

Buttermel Meadow - possibility of returning building to storage use if roof repaired; possible development of pitch & putt course.

Resolved.- that estimates for the repair of the roof be obtained: and that having regard to unenthusiastic comments from the Sports Council, only enquiries as to possible cost of developing pitch & putt facilities be made at this stage.

Open Space Volunteer Workforce - preliminary work on Osier beds; tree removal and use of timber for seating; picnic area proposal; clearance and cutting channels, weed and reed removal; tree maintenance and planting programme - reported upon by Councillor Huches.

Resolved.- that consideration be given to the purchase of a rotary mower and additional waste-bins in conjunction with the preparation of the precept; together with the purchase of ten NO MOORING signs. That the Workforce budget be increased by £100.

(Councillor Mrs. Conway here left the meeting).

Jubilee Hut

Resolved.- that the Working Party prepare a specification for the repair of the Jubilee Hut

85/61 COMMUNITY SCHOOL WORKING PARTY

Further consideration was given to the strategy for achieving designation of the community school which, it was agreed, needed to be carried out in conjunction with the representatives of the Governors, the Community Association and the Parent-Teacher Association. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Working Party in conjunction with the other interested parties carry out the necessary costing exercises with respect to the alternatives of adapting an existing portacabin, utilising other school accommodation or a new build scheme for community purposes.

85/62 PLAYScheme 1985.

Consideration of the 1985 Summer Playscheme was deferred to a future meeting.

85/63 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Consideration of this subject was deferred to a future meeting.

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

85/64 RECREATION GROUND AND PROPOSED RIVER DREDGING

The Town Council gave consideration to alternative methods by which Anglian Water could dredge the backwater rear of Post Street for land drainage purposes but which would necessitate the removal of some willow trees to facilitate access - at the Town Council's expense. The Town Council generally acknowledged the desirability of the dredging and that some drastic action needed to be taken in respect of the willows. Thereupon it was decided that Members of the Working Party should meet the Anglian Water Engineer on the site on Wednesday the 16th October at 8.30 a.m.

85/65 RECREATION GROUND AND RIGHT OF WAY TO THE ISLAND

Having regard to the request for the wayleaves proposed to be granted to the previous owner of The Island - subject to terms - to be granted to the new owner, it was

Resolved.- that the Amenity and Recreation Working Party consider and report to the Town Council on the matter.

85/66 FORMER MORTUARY

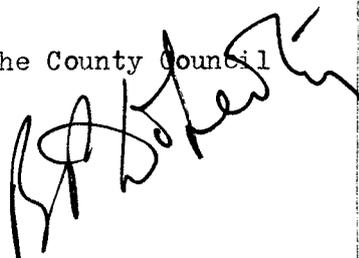
Consideration was given to the proposed disposal of the Mortuary building and an option extended to the Town Council to purchase it, subject to its retention as a mortuary. The Town Council acknowledged that it could not be acquired as a mortuary but

Resolved.- that the District Council be informed of the Town Council's interest in acquiring the former mortuary building.

85/67 PELICAN CROSSING, POST STREET

The Town Council were informed in a letter from the Director of Transportation that only the siting of a crossing in the vicinity of Readwell's shop met the County Council's criteria. The Town Council noted also the concern of the Civic Society for a crossing in the same vicinity but, more particularly, the urgent pleas by blind and partially sighted residents for a pelican crossing in Post Street. In the circumstances it was

Resolved.- that the conclusions reached by the County Council officials be supported.

  
Town Mayor