

Godmanchester Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Godmanchester on the 12th June, 1986

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

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. E. Conway and J.H. Lewis.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor announced that he had attended Civic Services at St. Ives and at St. Neots, and had attended the launch of a fund raising campaign for the Methodist Church in Huntingdon. He had attended also at the Annual Guide Assembly for West Cambridgeshire in Sawtry.

With reference to remarks made following his election, the Town Mayor clarified the subject by indicating that it was his intention to consult with former Town Mayors only on civic matters. He went on to report that he was formulating an action programme in conjunction with the Deputy Town Mayor which would embrace many subjects previously referred to by the Town Council, and others which would project the Town Council's progressive and responsible image - some of which would emerge following the completion of works on the Queen Elizabeth School.

The Town Mayor concluded his announcements by reporting -

- i) The Cromwell Sea Angling Club Event to be held at Godspsa on the 27th July from 11 a.m. where the Town Council were expected to enter a Tug O' War team and
- ii) the official opening of McCartney House by the Muir Housing Association at 11.10 a.m. on the 16th July, 1986/it was here indicated that an opportunity to draw attention to the condition of the footpath from Earning Street might be presented/.

86/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 22nd May, 1986 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to the record of his remarks by reference only to "civic" matters.

Arising therefrom, it was observed that the Town Council had not been requested to nominate School Governors and, similarly, appointments of representatives to the two Charities Trusts were not required at the present time.

86/15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following consideration or reconsideration of the applications shown hereunder, it was

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

- 3/0591 Change of use of storage to retail building, John's Freezer Centre (reconsideration) - ADHERE TO REFUSAL
- i) previous grounds are considered to be valid; and
 - 11) past experience shows that the applicant is committed to a strategy of expansion which, if not curtailed, will lead to development that will prejudice the adjacent Conservation Area and exacerbate existing traffic problems.

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86/0673 Renovation and redevelopment to provide 5 dwellings,
21 London Street - APPROVAL (upon reconsideration).

86/0873 Extension to dwelling, 39 Silver Street - APPROVAL.

86/16 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved -

Conwell Construction	£7,262 - 30
J. A. Davie	137 - 13
Inland Revenue	46 - 69
Petty cash	40 - 00
T. Mott (Buttermel building) (replaces former payment to Tarmac Roadstone which is cancelled).	11 - 79
Audit Commission	194 - 35

In respect of the latter payment, Members noted the content of the letter from the Audit Commission (District Auditor) which stated that additional investigations into matters raised by a local government elector (subsequently identified as Councillor Mrs. Conway) had led to the increase of the audit fee from £156 to £338, excluding VAT.

86/17 GRANTS

Before determining with respect to the schedule of applications, the Town Council agreed that they would work within the budget figure of £4,000, that the Fire Service Benevolent Fund donation would be met out of the Civic Fund and that Godspe contributions would be deferred or met within the specific budget head. Thereupon, it was -

Resolved.- that the following grants be made to organisations as shown below which operate in the interests of the inhabitants of, or some of the inhabitants of the Town Council's area :-

Radio Hinchingsbrooke	£185
St. Mary's Parish Church and Church Hall	£2,000
Godmanchester Royal Oak Bowls Club	£250
Huntingdon Methodist Church	£250
Huntingdon Area Victims Support Scheme	£100

(b) that at the present time, no further grant be made to the Godmanchester Cricket Club; and

(c) Fire Service Benevolent Fund £30

86/18 ROMAN WAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Councillor Hughes reported that residents of the Willowfield development were growing increasingly dissatisfied with the condition of and activities on the adjacent Roman Way Industrial Estate, to the extent that he had been presented with a petition which expressed the concern of those residents whose properties abutted the Industrial Estate. Allegations of irregularities in the development and management of the Estate, problems caused by parking by gypsies and of heavy vehicles had been made. The petition was submitted to the Town Council.

For their part, the Town Council expressed their concern that the Quad site still remained undeveloped which presented a scene of dilapidation. Thereupon it was

Resolved.- that Wroxall Management Ltd. be informed of the residents' and the Town Council's concern and requested to improve the management of the Industrial Estate, including maintenance of verges and street lights.

86/19 HUNTINGDON AREA LOCAL PLAN INQUIRY

The Town Mayor reported that he had asked for the subject to be presented so that the Town Council could record their appreciation of the manner in which Societies and individuals had presented submissions at the Public Inquiry into the Draft Huntingdon Area Local Plan. Particular reference was made to the Civic Society and the work of Mr. Greg Archer and to the time and contributions made by Councillor Lewis in an individual capacity.

Resolved.- That the appreciation and thanks of the Town Council be conveyed to those who had presented submissions in the interests of protecting the environment of Godmanchester.

86/20 TRAFFIC IN GODMANCHESTER

A written report by Councillor Lewis was presented (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which drew attention to anomalies between information given at the Public Inquiry into the Draft Huntingdon Area Plan and existing Structure Plan proposals. The Town Council concurred with the tenor and proposal contained in the report and

Resolved.- that the Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council be asked -

- (1) Whether the Planning Committee were aware when they accepted the Director of Planning's amendment to the Huntingdon Area Local Plan for additional houses in Godmanchester, that 1161 houses already had been given planning permission; and were they aware that even the Structure Plan required the construction of only 1,000 houses?
- (2) In view of the considerable public concern expressed since 1980 about the advisability of approving 1000 extra houses in Godmanchester as recommended in the Structure Plan - and as no solutions were being offered to relieve the grave traffic congestion already occurring in Godmanchester, why were the public, and in particular the Town Council not informed when planning approvals exceeded 1000? and
- (3) How many of the 1161 houses were given approval by the Planning Committee, and how many by the Director of Planning?

86/21 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. Working Party.

The Town Mayor explained to the Town Council reasons why the District Council should make provision in its budget for 1987/88 for improvements to School Hill, with which the Town Council concurred. Whereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Queen Elizabeth School Working Party be authorised to deal with the foregoing subject.

86/22 GODSPA. Working Party.

The Town Mayor reported that although the Working Party so far had been unable to deal with all the outstanding matters, a second meeting with Godspa users had been held on the 9th June, 1986 when a formal "Consultative Group" consisting of 5 representatives of user groups and 1 other person together with the 3 Members of the Working Party had been formed. Subsequently, meetings were to be held to determine priorities in outstanding capital works, draft a Management Agreement and organise routine maintenance, including the resurfacing of the football pitch.

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Current financial problems had been identified and the need for additional short term funding had been made clear. Notwithstanding the foregoing, considerable progress had been made towards the future management of Godspa; but the exact cost to the Town Council if they were to undertake the trusteeship was still uncertain. In the light of the foregoing information, the Town Council

Resolved.- that a further payment of £600 to Godspa be made, of which £200 would be earmarked for the provision of security lighting.

It was further -

Resolved.- that the District Council be requested to advise on the surfacing of the Godspa football pitch.

85/23 AMENITY AND RECREATION. Working Party.

In order to co-ordinate the programme to be pursued by the Town Council, it was

Resolved.- that arrangements be made for a meeting to be held between the Working Party and the Volunteer Workforce.

Further, to secure materials for the completion of renovations to the Buttermel Meadow building it was

Resolved.- that an account be opened with Messrs. Tebbutts.

85/24 CHURCHYARD GRASSCUTTING.

It was reported that the St. Mary's Men's Club had not responded favourably to the terms of the formal contract offered for grass cutting but, nevertheless, had tendered in respect of the Churchyard and the Nonconformist Burial Ground in the sum of £350. At the same time, it was requested by the Men's Group that the Town Council make a grant for the purchase of a suitable mowing machine. It was reported that no other tender had been received and thereupon it was

Resolved.- (a) that the tender by the St. Mary's Men's Club in the sum of £350 be accepted and payments be made at regular intervals, subject to a satisfactory standard of grasscutting being achieved; and

(b) that the Town Council purchase a suitable mowing machine within a figure not exceeding £700, and that its use be regulated by the Amenity and Recreation Working Party between Churchyard grasscutting and other necessary use.

Town Mayor

