

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 20 JULY 2000

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs LOOKER, Town Mayor
Councillors D COMBEN, P COVINGTON, Mrs FOSTER, A GOFF, Mrs HULL,
E KYNOCH, Mrs MOORE, R NORRIS, S SPENCER, Mrs TYLER, G WILSON,
C VANE PERCY
Town Clerk: W D BUTTERWORTH

IN ATTENDANCE: Mace Bearer H FOREN

APOLOGIES: Councillors A SURSHAM, A HOOKER

PRESENT: 2 members of the public.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 8 occasions since the last meeting. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Town at 3 events. The Mayor thanked all the councillors who had attended the Town's Civic Service and commented that the Church Service had been particularly enjoyable.

There had been 7 applications for the post of Assistant to the Town Clerk. Three candidates had been interviewed on 6 July 2000. The Interview Panel, comprising Councillors Mrs HULL, Mrs MOORE, Mrs TYLER and NORRIS, had selected Mrs Christine Hakimi-Nayeri. Mrs Hakimi had accepted the subsequent offer of employment and had started work on 10 July 2000. The Mayor asked the Council to ratify the appointment. APPROVED

The Mayor had presented a small personal gift to Mrs Mason, the outgoing Assistant, on behalf of the Town Council. She read out a note from Mrs Mason thanking the councillors for their help during her term as Assistant to the Town Clerk and for their good wishes in her new job. The Council recorded its formal thanks to Mrs Mason for her help with the handover of her duties.

The Common Seal had been located and had been returned to the Town Clerk.

The Land Certificate in respect of Devana Park had been received from the Land Registry and the area now belonged to the Godmanchester Town Council. The deeds would be lodged with Copleys in Huntingdon for safekeeping.

00/054 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2000 had been amended to state that the Deputy Mayor had "represented" the Town at 6 events. The revised Minutes were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

00/055 MATTERS ARISING

The following matters arising from the last meeting were incomplete or required further action:

00/028(8) Fox Grove sub-station – A telephoned message had indicated that the electricity company proposed to replace the wooden fence with an anti-vandal black steel mesh. A formal written reply was awaited.

00/040(6) Rectory Gardens – The carriageway was dressed 2 or 3 years ago. Money had been made available by the Housing Department to bring the footpaths up to an adoptable standard. The work would be carried out in the current FY. The Town Clerk was to advise the residents of this and 00/028(8) above.

00/040(8) Recycling credits – The HDC recycling officer had advised that the Cow Lane recycling centre continued to be successful with a good fill rate and minimum fly tipping. It was hoped to declare it a permanent site in the near future. The revenue from the site (£27 per ton) would be paid in September and then every 6 months. A detailed breakdown of the materials recycled would also be provided.

00/043 (Environment) Tree planting – Reply awaited from HDC.

00/047 (5) Bid for landfill tax money – Cllr NORRIS had applied for an application form that he would pass to Cllr SPENCER who would prepare a bid to enable the Recreation Ground play area to be refurbished.

00/047 (6) Location for Civic Service 2001 – The Mayor sensed that the preferred venue for the Civic Service was the Parish Church. However, she would investigate the possibility of an Interdenominational Service rather than a purely C of E one.

00/047 (29) Yellow lines on Fox Grove – Reply awaited from HDC.

00/047 (37) Boundary fence at JF – Deferred to the Recreation & Amenities WP report.

00/050 HDC Procedures for the determination of planning applications – CALC was consulting NALC and a reply would be sent in the near future.

00/051 (Environment) Litter bins & Monks Pit – Deferred to the Environment WP report.

00/051 (Property) External doors for JF – The Town Clerk was to contact Cllr HOOKER and ask for a progress report.

00/051 (Summer Playscheme) – Cllr Mrs HULL stated that there had been further meetings with Leisure Realm but that no acceptable way forward had been found. It had been decided, therefore, that there would be no playscheme in 2000. The possibility of a scheme for 2001 would be investigated during the next school term.

00/056 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence listed at [Appendix A](#) was addressed. The following was agreed (the numbers refer to the Appendix serial number):

The Council noted the letter of thanks from the Baptist Church.

2. The issue of cycling on the footpaths created a lively debate. Cllr NORRIS agreed to contact HDC to take the matter forward.
3. Recreation & Amenities WP.
4. The Council expressed concern about the tone of the HDC reply regarding the verges at Grove Terrace. The Town Clerk was to write to HDC and investigate the possibility of having the holes filled.
5. Cllr NORRIS presented the case for a new movement for the church clock. There were strong feelings expressed both for and against the proposal. Much of the argument hinged on who owned the clock. Cllr NORRIS agreed to investigate the matter further.
6. Environment WP.
7. The Mayor and The Deputy Mayor had attended the barbecue arranged for the visitors from the Twinned Towns.
8. The Town Clerk was to send for an application form for Parish Planting 2000.
9. Cllrs COMBEN & KYNOCH agreed to attend the Tree Warden event on 27 July.
10. Finance WP. The Town Clerk was to send a letter of thanks to the Millennium Committee.
11. It was AGREED that the organisers should retain the surplus of the money allocated to the Millennium Photography project until the end of the year.
12. The Mayor had attended the presentation at CCC on weight restrictions. The Council noted the intention to police restrictions more vigorously and the planned survey in Godmanchester from 11 to 22 September 2000. The Mayor explained how everyone could help by reporting violations of the restrictions on the special forms.
13. Agency WP.
14. Planning WP.
15. Cllr SURSHAM was to reply to HDC about the estimates for the church railings.
16. The Council noted Inspector Alderson's offer to speak to councillors and AGREED to invite him to the September meeting.
17. Cemetery WP
18. The Council noted CCC's intentions to consult Town Councils on various issues. The following councillors agreed to take the lead on individual subjects:

Connexions Cllr Mrs HULL

Prospects 2001-2005 Cllr Mrs MOORE

Funding Local Services Cllr Mrs MOORE

Political Management Cllr KYNOCH

Waste Local Plan Cllr COMBEN

Growth & Development Cllr WILSON

19. Environment WP. The WP was to direct the Town Clerk to write to all parties involved in the dispute about the maintenance of the Lime Trees on The Avenue.

00/057 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

Two additional bills had been received and required payment (APPROVED):

J Lanigan for window cleaning in the Town Hall and QES £70.00

Speedy Hire for the hire of a sander for the QES £39.40 +VAT

The Town Clerk asked if the Council intended to make a grant to the Godmanchester and Huntingdon Twinning Association. In the past £1000 had been awarded to the Sportsfest and £100 towards secretarial costs. Cllr SPENCER advised that Hinchingsbrooke School might be unable to send teachers to the Sportsfest this year and, therefore, Godmanchester children might not be able to take part. If that proved to be true, the award of £1000 might be inappropriate. Cllr Mrs TYLER agreed to investigate the matter with the Twinning Association.

The Godmanchester Community Primary School had proposed that the Town Council subsidise swimming for children under 16 years of age during the summer holidays. The Council agreed to a subsidy of 50 pence per child per visit up to a maximum total of £1500. An initial payment of £500 would be made to get the scheme underway. The balance would be paid at the end of the holiday following the submission of accounts and attendance figures.

At 9.00 pm the meeting was adjourned to allow for questions from the public. The detail is at [Appendix D](#). The meeting reconvened at 9.14 pm.

00/058 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in [Appendix C](#) were considered. The Town Clerk was to advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Cllrs KYNOCH and WILSON had attended a worthwhile consultation exercise entitled "Helping to Shape the Future of Huntingdonshire". Cllr WILSON would make the notes of the meeting available to any councillor who would like to read them.

Cllr WILSON had attended the HDC Development Control Panel meeting on 17 July 2000 to speak on the application to erect a replacement dwelling at 4 Earning Street. He formed the opinion that the hearing was not balanced in that it did not appear take into account all the factors nor, apparently, the objections from neighbours. The views of the Town Council had not been sympathetically received.

Cllr WILSON had been re-elected as the chair of the Planning WP at its meeting on 13 July 2000.

00/059 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The next meeting of the Finance WP would be on Tuesday, 1 August 2000 at 8.00 pm at 4 Crowhill.

Ad Hoc (Agency). It was AGREED that Fergusons should maintain the shrub beds on Devana Park and, in particular, that the plants overhanging the footpath should be pruned. The gravel area in the cemetery was to be sprayed to kill off weeds and the Garden of Rest should be treated with herbicide. Cllr COMBEN stated that a longer- term plan for the refurbishment of the Garden of Rest would be needed.

Environment. The next meeting of the Environment WP would be on Tuesday, 8 August 2000 at 8.00 pm at 26 Earning Street.

Cllr NORRIS proposed a plan to install 3 new litterbins in the Town. One would be near the junction of Silver Street & Old Court Hall, one on Buttermel and one on Devana Park. The Town Clerk was to investigate the best way to procure and install the equipment. Cllr NORRIS also reported that the decision on Monks Pit had not favoured the Council and that he was awaiting a letter from CCC which would explain how the Town could appeal against the ruling.

Cllr VANE PERCY left the meeting at 10.05 pm

Recreation and Amenities. The WP had met on 28 June 2000; Cllr SPENCER had been re-elected as the Chair for a further year. The latest HDC plans for the skatepark had been considered and the cost of the equipment had reduced to c£24,000; a saving of £3,000. It was hoped that work would start in August. The charges levied on the football teams for matches at JF had been reviewed in the light of the planned move later in the year to Bearscroft Farm. (Cllr SPENCER declared an interest). It was recommended that the season block charges be replaced by fixed monthly charges of £33.00 per senior team and £16.50 per youth team. Hall Charges should remain at £3.50 per hour. AGREED.

The matter of the repairs to the boundary fence had been deferred to the next meeting. However, some options for the replacement safety surfaces within the Recreation Ground play-area had been examined in detail. Other options still needed to be considered. Cllr SPENCER provided a verbal presentation of costs for several options, all of which were for substantial sums. He volunteered to send the Town Clerk a written copy of the brief for inclusion with the Minutes.

The next meeting of the Recreation & Amenities WP would be on Wednesday, 9 August at 8 pm at JF.

Property. There was no report from the Property WP.

Cemetery. The Cemetery WP had met twice. Cllr Mrs FOSTER had been elected Chair. She reported that CCC had approved the revised plan for a substantial gate and fixed barriers just beyond the entrance to the cemetery on London Road and that work would commence very soon. Mr York had attended one meeting and it had been agreed that his bid to transfer responsibility for the Nonconformist Burial Ground should be referred to the PCC.

Other Representative Groups. Cllr Mrs HULL advised the Council that the Community Initiative Management Group had met and that she would report on the issues discussed at the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr KYNOCH handed out a written report from the CHUMMS Symposium. The Town clerk was to send copies to those councillors who had not attended the meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2000.

The meeting ended at 10.35 pm Town Mayor