

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2001

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs HULL, A SURSHAM, S SPENCER

PRESENT: One member of the public

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 7 occasions since the last meeting. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Town at 3 events.

Mrs Hakimi had completed her probationary period as Assistant to the Town Clerk. The Mayor recommended that her position be confirmed as permanent. **AGREED**

The Mayor advised the Council that the audit of the Council's accounts for the FY 99/00 had been delayed until 5 February 2001 because of resource problems at the audit office.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Councillor Mrs HULL had been taken into hospital unexpectedly. The Mayor and all the councillors wished Helen a speedy recovery

01/001 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2000 were **APPROVED** and signed as an accurate and complete record.

01/002 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 18 January 2001 was reviewed. The following matters arising from the last meeting were incomplete or required further action: (actions assigned to WPs are dealt with in the appropriate report).

The Council noted that CCC had let a new contract for the painting of red blocks and 30 mph roundels on the access roads to Godmanchester. No date had been set for the work.

Councillor Vane Percy arrived at 7.38 pm

01/003 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence listed at [Appendix A](#) not covered by the WP reports was addressed.

New Footpath. The Mayor advised the Council that the children from the GMC Community Primary School had raised concerns about a footpath that was being built near the school. The Town Clerk had investigated the matter and discovered that the path was the subject of a S106 agreement. HDC would ensure that the work was done to a satisfactory standard. The Town Clerk was to inform the children through the Head Teacher.

Twinning Association Contribution. It was AGREED that the GMC annual contribution to the Twinning Association would be increased by 10% from £1000 to £1100.

Councillor KYNOCH left the meeting at 8.00 pm

East Chadley Pasture Field. The Council noted that the pasture had been again made available for sale. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would make a sealed bid of {£.....} on behalf of the Town Council. [note: the figure will be inserted once the deadline for sealed bids has passed]

Icy Pavements. The Town Clerk had consulted HDC who had confirmed that neither the District nor the County Council had any statutory responsibility to clear or grit pavements or footpaths when ice or snow was present. Occasionally, grit from the highway spilled onto the footpaths but this was purely serendipity. The Town Clerk was to contact Mrs Bonner and advise her accordingly.

County Structure Plan Seminar. Councillors NORRIS and WILSON volunteered to attend the seminar in Huntingdon on 27 February 2001.

01/004 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk asked for approval for up to £80 to purchase 2 tins of industrial floor varnish for the floor of the large hall in the QES. Mr Popplewell had volunteered to do the work. APPROVED.

The Town Clerk advised the Council that Peacocks, the company that maintained the roofs of the QES and Town Hall, had ceased trading. An ex-employee who wished to continue to do the work had approached him. The proposal was AGREED in principle, subject to cost and to the provision of a method statement in accordance with Heath & Safety regulations.

01/005 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.

The draft letter to GO-east regarding the CHUMMS proposals was AGREED. Cllr Mrs LOOKER declared an interest. The Town Clerk was to send the submission to GO-East, with copies to District and County Councillors, Brampton, Buckden and Papworth Parish Councils, the CHUMMS Steering Group and Mouchel. He was also to arrange for a short press release based on the letter for distribution to local papers.

The Mayor thanked Councillor WILSON and the members of the WP for the considerable effort made to produce the Godmanchester response.

01/006 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had not met. The next meeting would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 13 February 2001 at 4 Crowhill.

The Council noted the final costings for the Judith's Field Skatepark as prepared by HDC.

Ad Hoc (Gnd Maint). The WP had not met. Councillor COMBEN advised that he had received quotations for bench maintenance and for additional items for the annual grounds maintenance contract. These would be considered at the next Finance WP.

Environment. Councillor COMBEN reported on a number of matters:

There was to be a site meeting on 23 January 2001 to finalise the recommendations for tree planting on 6 verges in Godmanchester.

The Huntingdon Town Clerk had agreed, on behalf of the Huntingdon Town Council, to fund 50% of the hanging baskets on the River Bridge.

The Monks Pit appeal was now in its final stage with a ruling from the Secretary of State promised by 4 April 2001.

The Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme to provide a cycle-path on Post Street would be subject to a technical feasibility review followed by further consultations with the Town Council and residents. If each stage resulted in agreement then work would start in FY 01/02.

CCC had acknowledged that a road sign on the A14 at the junction of the A1198 was missing and that might have caused some HGVs to be misrouted through Godmanchester. The sign would be replaced.

The condition of the Old Mill Sluice continued to cause concern. The Town Clerk was to investigate the ownership of the various components and determine when the Environment Agency planned to carry out the promised restoration work.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 6 February 2001 at 26 Earning Street.

Recreation and Amenities. In the absence of Councillor SPENCER, the Mayor reported that the skatepark was almost complete and that the formal opening would be on Saturday, 27 January 2001 at 10.30 am. It was hoped that Jennifer Rae and representatives of HDC would be there, together with the press. It was possible that a competition would also be organised. The Mayor encouraged all councillors to attend.

Property. There had been a site meeting in Church Place on 9 January 2001 at the request of the Diocese of Ely. Miss J Logan, the secretary of the DAC, had taken all the necessary details and would advise the Town Council of what needed to be done next. The HDC

Conservation Officer also offered encouragement with regard to grants towards the restoration.

Councillors VANE PERCY & NORRIS volunteered to assist Councillor SURSHAM with the grant applications.

Cemetery. The WP had not met. Councillor FOSTER reported that of the 15 replies received so far about the proposals to restore the cemetery to lawn status only one offered a serious objection. Two other respondees had asked that the work be delayed for a short while. Several people had expressed an interest in memorial trees.

Councillor COHEN AGREED to take over the chair of the WP from Councillor FOSTER for a minimum of 6 months.

Judith's Field. The WP had met on 17 January 2001. Mr D Stokes had attended and had offered to assist the project with design and costing activities on a speculative basis. The initial work had revealed that any application for funding would have to be supported by evidence of need. The Town Clerk was to write to all existing and potential users to assess likely usage of the new facility. He was also to keep a record of applicants for the QES halls that were turned down because of insufficient QES capacity.

Councillor GOFF explained that Lottery grants could be made only to trusts and therefore it would be necessary to create one, albeit with the Town Council as a trustee. Brampton and Alconbury had already completed that exercise and he would seek advice from them. The potential for a Government loan would also be examined. Overall, ACRE could provide specialist advice and assistance with grant applications and a representative would attend the next WP meeting. In the meantime, Councillors GOFF and NORRIS had planned a further meeting with Mr Stokes on 19 February 2001.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Wednesday 14 February 2001 at Judith's Field.

Other Representative Groups. There were no reports from other groups.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2001.

The meeting ended at 9.33 pm Town Mayor