

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2001

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs HULL, Mrs FOSTER, Mrs TYLER, Mrs MOORE, S
SPENCER

PRESENT: Two members of the public

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 5 occasions since the last meeting. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Town at 3 events.

The skatepark at Judith's Field had been formally opened on 27 January 2001 and was being well used. The Mayor thanked all those who helped with the project.

The Notice Board on London Road had been vandalised. The door had been badly damaged and would have to be replaced. The incident had been reported to the police. The Mayor noted that there had been a spate of vandalism recently.

The Mayor announced that the Godmanchester Civic Charity Ball would be held in the Comrades Club Hall on Friday, 27 April 2001. She hoped that as many councillors as possible would attend.

The Mayor reminded councillors about the 20th anniversary visit from Wertheim planned for 1 April 2001 and outlined the provisional programme of events. Between 20 and 40 visitors were expected.

The Mayor also reminded the Council that the Annual Town Meeting would take place on Tuesday, 3 April 2001. She asked the Chair of each WP to prepare a short report to be delivered at the meeting.

The Mayor's term of office would end in May and councillors were asked to consider nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2001/2002.

7.40 pm Cllr COHEN arrived.

The Mayor reported that the refurbishment of the public toilets on School Hill was complete and that the new facilities were of a very high standard.

01/007 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

01/008 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 15 February 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).

21 Sep AOB Caravan at Monks Pit – the Council noted that the caravan had been moved from the edge of the lake into a field behind the hedge. However, it remained an eyesore and the Town Clerk was to write to the HDC planning enforcement officer. The action was to be restored to the List.

Parish Paths Partnership 2001 – now a routine task and could be removed from List.

00/094 (JF) Football Foundation grant – to be amended to show that the application had been sent.

00/094 Grounds Maintenance review of quotations – AGREED that the outstanding actions must be completed at the next meeting.

01/009 CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Council noted that the bid to purchase the pasture land at East Chadley Lane had been unsuccessful.

The Council noted the request from GOBA to erect a memorial seat on the Recreation Ground. There was agreement in principle to the proposal but the Town Clerk was to reply, arrange a site meeting and request a sketch of the seat so that the Council could be assured that it would blend in with the existing units.

Cllr SURSHAM advised that the application to the Diocese of Ely regarding the restoration of the Church railings etc would be prepared in time for the Diocese' March meeting.

Cllr NORRIS confirmed that minor plans for GMC had been suggested for the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme together with a request for financial assistance for the Monk's Pit appeal.

01/010 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

7.55 pm Cllr VANE PERCY arrived.

The Mayor thanked Cllr SURSHAM for planting the new Beech hedging at the cemetery.

01/011 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 matter of the S106 agreement to provide street lighting in the vicinity of the A1198 and the entrance to Bears Croft Farm was discussed. The Town Clerk was to write to HDC / CCC to determine the latest position.

Cllr WILSON advised the Council that there would be an exhibition of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan in the QES car park on Monday, 19 March 2001 from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. There would be a further exhibition at Pathfinder House on 22 March 2001 from 6 pm until 8.30 pm.

Cllr WILSON was preparing a response to the Huntingdonshire Local Plan – Summary of Objections. The Town Clerk was to advise the Inspector that the submission would be made on 19 February 2001.

Cllrs NORRIS & WILSON volunteered to attend the launch of “Shaping the Future of Huntingdonshire” at the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Education Centre on Friday, 9 March 2001.

The Town Clerk was to obtain a copy of the Definitive Flood Risk for GMC from the Environment Agency.

01/012 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The Finance WP had not met.

Ad Hoc (Gnd Maint). The WP had not met. The next meeting of a combined Finance and Grounds Maintenance WP was proposed for Tuesday, 13 March 2001 at 8 pm at 4 Crowhill. The Town Clerk was to contact Cllr Mrs MOORE to confirm the arrangement. [confirmed]

Environment. Cllr COMBEN provided a comprehensive written report of the WP meeting held 5 February 2001.

He reiterated the Council’s grave concerns about the state of the weir at the Old Mill site and recommended that the matter be given the highest priority.

Cllr Norris had investigated the proposed changes to local bus timetables. The Town Clerk was to respond to CCC and seek clarification of several issues.

Cllr COMBEN declared his intention to monitor the state of the storage areas underneath the A14 flyover with the aid of before & afterwards photographs.

After some discussion it was AGREED that the Town Council’s contribution to National Spring Clean 2001 should be on Saturday, 7 April 2001. The Town Clerk was to write to local groups to encourage them to join in.

The plan to replace missing Lime Trees on The Avenue was finally coming to fruition and the project to plant trees on other sites was moving ahead. The request to fit handrails to the Chinese Bridge was being considered by the relevant authorities, while Cllr NORRIS was preparing a map detailing walks around GMC.

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to discover what had happened to the proposal to site a mobile air quality monitoring unit in GMC.

The WP had considered CCC letter about Jointly Funded Minor Improvements and suggested that where the £30,000 limit precluded a scheme, the Parish Council might be allowed to contribute more than 60 pence per elector in order to meet the shortfall.

Finally, the WP had considered a letter of complaint about the proximity of some of the trees on Buttermel Meadow to private boundary fences. It was AGREED that 6 trees would be moved so each was at least 10 meters from any boundary fence. However, the Council declined to accept a suggestion to move the trees to the other side of the meadow. The Town Clerk was to reply to the letter and arrange for the trees to be moved.

The Mayor thanked Cllr COMBEN for his report and encouraged more councillors to attend the WP meetings where a wide range of important issues were being discussed. The next meeting of the WP would be Tuesday, 6 March at 8 pm at 26 Earning Street.

Recreation and Amenities. The WP had not met. The Mayor expressed concern that the momentum behind the scheme to replace the play area on the Recreation ground was being lost. The Town Clerk was to contact the Chair of the WP and request that a meeting be arranged soon.

Property. The WP had not met. The next meeting would be at 10 am on Saturday, 17 February 2001 at 20 Earning Street.

Cemetery. A letter of complaint had been received about litter and an unsightly pile of earth in the vicinity of the Ashes Plot. The Town Clerk was to task Fergusons to remove the earth which could be added to the bund that was being restored outside the cemetery. The new litterbin was in place and should allow floral tributes to be discarded more tidily. The Town Clerk volunteered to fix bigger hooks to the post by the water tap to prevent the bottles blowing away.

The proposal from HDC to transfer the responsibility for the administration of the cemetery to the Town Council was discussed and it was AGREED that the limited hours worked by the GMC Town Clerk would result in an unsatisfactory service to the public and the undertakers. The preferred solution was that HDC retained responsibility for cemetery administration. Should that fail, Huntingdon TC could be approached to see if it could include the Godmanchester cemetery in its cemetery management. The Town Clerk was to advise HDC of the GMC decision and also contact the Huntingdon TC to seek its reaction to the fall back proposal.

The next meeting of the cemetery WP would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 20 February 2001 at 34 Croftfield Road.

Judith's Field. The WP had met on 14 February 2001. The questionnaire seeking the views of the people of Godmanchester had been prepared and £180 was APPROVED for the printing of 3000 leaflets. The White Hart had sponsored a prize of dinner for 2 people to be drawn from all those households returning a questionnaire. It was DECIDED that councillors would not be eligible for the prize.

The Town Clerk had sought guidance from Pathfinder House about what planning applications would be required for the building. Initial advice was that Full planning permission would be necessary rather than Outline. However, further written advice was awaited.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 14 March at JF. The ACRE representative and expert on grant applications would attend.

Other Representative Groups.

There were no other representative groups.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 15 MARCH 2001.
THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 3 APRIL 2001**

The meeting ended at 9.58 pm Town Mayor