

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2001

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs TYLER, A SURSHAM

PRESENT: No members of the public.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 3 occasions since the last meeting. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Town at 2 events.

Arrangements for the Sportsfest during the last week of September 2001 were underway. In the 1997 Sportsfest Godmanchester TC played no part in the hosting of civic leaders from the Twin Towns nor did it make a financial contribution to the social programme of events. It was necessary to decide what part, if any, the Town Council wished to play in 2001. Cllr Mrs MOORE advised that up to £2000 was allocated each year to Twinning activities in addition to the £1000 allocated to the Sportsfest. It was AGREED to contribute up to £1000 towards the accommodation of the Civic Guests attending the Fest based on the agreed 3:1 ratio with Huntingdon Town Council. It was further AGREED that up to £500 be allocated to host a social event in Godmanchester. The Twinning Committee was to consider the details.

Cllr Mrs FOSTER arrived at 7.45 pm

The Mayor reminded everyone that her Charity Dinner Dance would be held on 27 April 2001 and that tickets were £20. She hoped that as many councillors as possible would attend. Ticket sales so far were good. Any donations of prizes for the raffle would be gratefully received.

She reported that the litterpick on 7 April 2001 had been very successful. The cemetery, the A14 embankment, Judith's Field, The Causeway and Silver Street /Devana Park were all thoroughly cleared. The Mayor thanked all those who took part.

Cllr VANE PERCY arrived at 7.50 pm

The Twinning visit on Sunday, 1 April 2001 had also been a success. The visitors enjoyed conducted tours of the gardens of Farm Hall and Island Hall and a visit to the Parish Church. A demonstration of bell ringing, a tour of the Friend's Museum, a buffet lunch in the QES and light refreshments in the Town Hall all contributed an excellent day made even better by the lovely spring weather. The Mayor thanked all those councillors who supported the event

The Mayor would be visiting Salon de Provence between 3 May and 10 May 2001 as part of the Twinning programme.

01/019 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

01/020 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 3 April 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

01/021 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 19 April 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).

99/048 New Town Guide – Cllr VANE PERCY reported that Mr Hufford had reviewed the first draft and had made several useful suggestions. The details relating to listed buildings had also been enhanced. The second draft was now being prepared but there was a need for the Council to decide on the final format. It could be the extant Town Trail updated or something far more “modern”. The level of detail also needed to be determined. Cllr NORRIS volunteered to assist with the work.

It was AGREED to accept the quotation from Ashley & Foster in the sum of £157 +VAT per visit for the twice-yearly inspection and cleaning of roof valleys and guttering on the Queen Elizabeth School and the Town Hall.

Cllr VANE PERCY recommended that the area at the northern end of the Recreation Ground be cleared of nettles, storm debris and other vegetation. Cllr COMBEN held a different view based on the fact that it was a natural area and should be retained as such. There was concern that the high vegetation attracted long-term campers and that such use was inappropriate. In the face of several differing opinions, the matter was referred to the Environment WP.

The Town Clerk was to write to GO-east to ask for a revised target date for the decision on the footpath around Monks Pit.

There was a suggestion that the Council’s intention to return the cemetery to its proper lawn status should be advertised in the local paper. The plan had been reported in the newspapers’ accounts of the Town Meeting and further action was deferred until reactions had been received to the letters sent to the last known addresses of next-of-kin.

Cllr KYNOCH expressed his disquiet about the project to upgrade the play-area on the Recreation Ground. One reason for the work concerned the statement that the old equipment no longer complied with EU regulations. The local RoSPA expert had advised Cllr KYNOCH that this was not the case. The Mayor observed that the WP had considered all the factors in detail and at length before recommending the work. In any event, the whole Council had made the final decision and the project would go ahead subject to grant funding.

The action list was to be updated to show the awaited reply from HDC about modes of transport to the proposed development at Rectory Farm and the proposal to have “high quality graffiti” at the Judith’s Field skatepark.

01/022 CORRESPONDENCE

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

It was DECIDED that in response to the Huntingdonshire NHS Primary Care Trust proposal for greater involvement of the Town Council, the current methods of advertising health issues in the Town were sufficient. However, the Town Clerk was to bring any significant issues to the Council should they occur.

The Council noted that HDC had been unable to find any formal S106 agreements in connection with 16 St Ann’s Lane. However, the enforcement officer was considering the problem, as it was a listed building and was falling into disrepair.

The Mayor made the Council aware of the draft DETR Code of Conduct. The Town Clerk had been unable to get a copy for each councillor but the document was available on the website. The Mayor had prepared comments and invited councillors to review them before they were submitted.

The Mayor reported that she had circulated the Rural Support brochures to the appropriate people.

The Council had already made its views known on the subject of electoral review and no further action was necessary.

Cllr NORRIS reported that CCC had issued the details of the new bus services. Regrettably, the changes had not been influenced the Council’s earlier comments & proposals.

There was a lengthy discussion about the ownership of the wall between the Parish Church and the Primary School. Most of the correspondence so far was information copies but they suggested that the Town Council was responsible for the wall’s maintenance. The Town Clerk had asked CCC to provide copies of the deeds relating to the sale of the land to the School in the 1950s.

Cllr NORRIS agreed to complete the Countryside Access Questionnaire.

01/023 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

01/024 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 following actions were required in relation to the items of correspondence:

1.01/00374/FUL - the Town Clerk was to advise Miss Barringer of the Council's recommendation and suggest that she copied her objection to HDC.

8.Current Enforcement Cases – the Town Clerk was to confirm that transfer of the Bearscroft Lane site to HDC was only temporary and the land would ultimately be transferred to the football club trustees.

8.Current Enforcement Cases – the Town Clerk was to ask why “personal reasons” prevented the removal of the trellis at 26 London Road that had been erected without planning permission.

9.00/00984/FUL – the Town Clerk was to query the HDC planning permission conditions, as it appeared that conditions 4 & 5 conflicted with condition 2.

11. 01/00102/FUL – the Town Clerk was to query why the HDC planning permission made no mention of whether hydro-relief valves needed to be fitted and monitored.

01/025 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had not met. The next meeting would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 1 May 2001 at 4 Crowhill. The meeting would be a joint meeting with the Environment WP.

Environment. The WP had not met. The next meeting would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 1 May 2001 at 4 Crowhill.

It was **AGREED** to accept the quotation from Fergusons for the maintenance of the 2 Osier beds in the sums of £45 and £55 per cut based on 4 cuts per year. It was **DECIDED** not to accept the quotations for sweeping beneath benches, work on the Lime tree at the War Memorial or the additional play bark.

It was **AGREED** to accept the quotation from Fergusons for the maintenance of the benches in the sum of £25 per bench and the painting of the cemetery shelter in the sum of £125.

The ongoing concerns about the Old Mill Sluice were referred to the WP for recommendations. The WP was also tasked to consider the possible refurbishment of the railings on The Avenue and further quotations from Fergusons for shrubbery maintenance and litterpicking.

Cllr KYNOCH volunteered to attend the Cambridgeshire Village of the Year Competition launch at Willingham Village Hall on Saturday 19 May 2001.

Cllr COMBEN advised the Council that he would be meeting Cllr COHEN on Saturday, 21 April 2001 at the cemetery to discuss the tree-planting project.

Recreation and Amenities. The WP had not met.

Property. The WP had not met. Cllr SURSHAM was invited to arrange a meeting in the near future.

Cemetery. There had been no meeting of the WP and a date for the next meeting would be decided once replies to the lawning plan had been received.

The theft of the post for holding water containers had presented a dilemma and a decision on whether to replace it or seek a different solution was required.

Judith's Field. The WP had not met. Cllr GOFF reported that, despite frequent reminders, HDC had taken 10 weeks to provide basic planning criteria. Sadly, the information given was vague and of little help. Cllr GOFF would investigate the successful project at Alconbury to see what lessons might be learned for the Godmanchester scheme. A meeting would take place with Mr Stokes to take the project forward. Cllr GOFF would then arrange a WP meeting to decide on the next steps.

The results of the Town Survey indicated a need for a range of facilities not currently available in the Town. The return was 12% of the leaflets distributed to homes. Of those, 90% supported an increase in the Godmanchester component of the Council Tax to repay a Government Loan should one prove necessary. However, the preferred source of funding remained the National Lottery.

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

01/026 SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2001/2001

Councillor R NORRIS had accepted the nomination for Town Mayor and had been formally proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. He received a unanimous vote in favour and was, therefore, duly selected.

Councillor Mrs A LOOKER had accepted the nomination for Deputy Town Mayor and had been formally proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. She received a unanimous vote in favour and was, therefore, duly selected.

Both councillors were congratulated on their appointments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 17 MAY 2001.

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm Town Mayor