

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

PRESENT: Mace Bearer H FOREN

APOLOGIES: Councillors A GOFF & Mrs HULL. Reverend Peter Moger

PRESENT: 3 members of the public.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had represented the Town on 14 occasions since the last meeting.

He advised the Council that invitations to the Civic Service on 16 September 2001 had been sent out and over 60 people had accepted so far. The MP for Huntingdonshire, Jonathan Djanogly, and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Lady Hemingford, would be attending. The Bishop of Huntingdon was unable to attend.

The Mayor reported that the Gala Week and Picnic in the Park had been great successes. He thanked all the councillors for their contributions and asked that the Town Clerk write to Mrs N Rule and Mr P Hull to thank them and their teams for all the hard work that was done to before, during and after the events.

The Mayor announced his charities for the year; The Huntingdonshire Multiple Sclerosis Trust, Cruse Bereavement Care and the Parish Church Heating Appeal.

01/042 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

01/043 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 19 July 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).

00/083 Landfill Tax – action subsumed into the Church Railings Project. CLOSED.

01/012(Env) Mobile Air-quality Unit – the Town Clerk was to pass the details of the landowner who had indicated a willingness to allow the unit to be positioned on her land to HDC.

01/018(Env) Storm damaged trees – It had been noted that a number of substantial branches had been blown down on the Recreation Ground and along the footpath to the Godmanchester Lock. The Town Clerk was to write to the Freemen to ask if they would like to claim and remove them.

01/037 Twinning – Cllrs LOOKER, NORRIS & TYLER volunteered to attend the Twinning Visit Planning Meeting in the Commemoration Hall on 30 July 2001.

01/044 CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Mayor advised the member that the Rotary Club Ball would take place at Wood Green on 20 October 2001. All Councillors would be very welcome; tickets would cost £27.

The Council noted Mr Fletcher's complaints to HDC about the standard of workmanship associated with the road resurfacing in Orchard Lane. The District Council's response was awaited with interest.

The Mayor informed the Council that CCC had awarded the Town a grant of £150 under the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme 2001/2002.

The Council noted the many letters of thanks from the recipients of the June S137 awards.

Councillor KYNOCH had examined the Periodic Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire and reported that it had no effect on Godmanchester.

The Mayor advised councillors that the Huntingdon Community Health Council was holding a series of consultation meetings about children's services and mental health services. The Town Clerk had the details if any councillor wished to attend.

The Council noted Stuart Bond's kind offer to display the new Town Guide on the Godmanchester website.

During the short discussion about the EEDA Economic Strategy for the East of England, Councillor KYNOCH reminded the Council that CALC has a vote in the Regional Planning fora.

01/045 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED. Two small amendments were required; the name of the caretaker at JF needed to be changed to Zoric following her recent marriage and a payment to Viking Direct in the sum of £85.88 for office supplies needed to be added.

It was AGREED that replacement of the mechanism in the Parish Church Clock should go ahead [see 00/086]. The Town Clerk was to instruct Smiths of Derby to carry out the work up to a maximum cost of £1500 + VAT. Councillor KYNOCH remained opposed to the plan.

The recent vandalism to the log play-area suggested that there might be merit in extending the Council's insurance cover to include such events. The Town Clerk was to write to the insurance company and seek a quotation.

01/046 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.

Councillor WILSON reported on the local MP's public meeting to discuss the CHUMMS preferred plan which had been held at St Anne's School. The next stage in the consultation process would be a meeting at Pathfinder House on 24 July 2001. Councillors COHEN, COMBEN & NORRIS volunteered to attend to represent the Town Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.43 pm to allow questions from the public

There was considerable concern about the proposed development in Betts Close and the question was asked if there could ever be an appropriate / acceptable plan. It was explained that each planning application was examined on merit but that Godmanchester Town Council could only recommend approval or refusal; HDC made the decision. Residents were given the opportunity to comment as part of the consultation process and it was also possible to appeal against an HDC decision. Nevertheless, government housing targets placed great pressure on such brownfield sites and, should the current application fail, further proposals must be likely.

The meeting reconvened at 8.51 pm.

01/047 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had not met. Councillor Mrs MOORE was asked to arrange a meeting towards the end of August to enable the audit submission for FY 00/01 to be presented to the Council in September 2001.

The Council noted the Town Clerk's prediction that income would fall from JF once the football teams moved to Bearscroft and because the general condition of the building made it ever less attractive for private functions. It was AGREED that an interim "smartening-up" plan was needed pending the decision on the new building. In particular, the toilets were in need of refurbishment.

Environment. The WP had met on 5 July 2001. However, Councillor COMBEN expressed his extreme disappointment that so few councillors attended a meeting that dealt with so many important issues. Councillor KYNOCH shared Councillor COMBEN's sentiments and suggested that it might be an appropriate time to revisit the idea of a Town Council structure based on the Huntingdon Town Council's committees / WPs / alternate monthly full Council meetings concept. The Mayor reiterated the need for detailed debate and work to be done within the WPs but decided to continue with the present structure for a little longer before considering the major change.

Councillor COMBEN then went on to present a comprehensive written report of the WP meeting. The following was AGREED:

The vegetation at the north end of the Recreation Ground would be subjected to a low level maintenance regime only with an annual cut in October each year.

The Town Clerk was to distribute a letter to commercial premises in the Town seeking their help and ideas for the reduction of litter.

The Town Clerk was to write to HDC to seek agreement in principle for the introduction of lamppost-style street furniture for hanging baskets on The Causeway.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a workshop organised by CCC who had employed consultants to examine the different environments in the County. Delegates were asked to list the 3 best environmental aspects of Huntingdonshire and the 3 worst. Historic buildings, architecture and ambience were rated highly, while the A14, traffic and housing & industrial developments headed the disadvantages. All the views will be taken into account by the consultants.

Councillor COMBEN would submit the completed CCC consultation questionnaire on street works management to the Town Clerk for onward transmission.

Councillor COHEN provided a review of the Network Management Plan 2001. Of particular interest was the significant growth of HGV traffic associated with the A14 and the need to pay for infrastructure for new developments long before revenue accrues from the new ratepayers. Over half of the £8.1M allocated for integrated transport in the County would be spent within the city of Cambridge and of the 151 requests for traffic management only 17 projects had been funded and approved. Of those Monks Bridge and the Post Street cycleway were to the benefit of Godmanchester. The Town Clerk was to seek a progress report on the latter project.

The Environment WP would work closely with the Planning WP to provide the Town Council's input to the ongoing CHUMMS debate.

The Town Council should become a member of Action for Market Towns with an annual subscription fee of £78.75 + VAT. Councillor Mrs LOOKER would review the benefits after the first year to ensure that membership represented good value for money. The Town Clerk was also to check that the Town Council's membership of CALC did not bring automatic membership of Action for Market Towns. [note: CALC confirmed that no automatic membership exists].

The Town Clerk was to write to Mr R Payne to seek his support with progressing the repairs to the Old Mill Sluice.

The next meeting would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 8 August 2001 at 26 Earning Street.

Recreation and Amenities. The WP had not met.

Property. Councillor SURSHAM reported that planning applications for the church wall, gates and railings project had been submitted to HDC and the DAC. A bid for a grant had also been submitted to HDC. The next step would be to apply for a grant from the landfill scheme. The Town Clerk was to discover if it was possible to apply to SITA direct or if all such bids had to be submitted to WREN. The 3 quotations received for the work would be

revisited to ensure that they were all firmly based on common specifications. The WP would also prepare an outline programme showing the various steps and stages in the project plan.

Cemetery. Councillor COHEN advised that Councillor COMBEN would be preparing a drawing of a Garden of Rest that might be incorporated into the London Road cemetery. Councillors would then be given the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

The next meeting would be 6 September 2001 immediately after the Planning WP meeting.

Judith's Field. The WP had not met

Other Representative Groups. Councillor Mrs TYLER explained that now she commuted to London each day she was unable to represent the Town Council at Citizen's Advice Bureau meetings. Councillor SURSHAM volunteered to take over the task.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that WREN had agreed to an award of between £2000 and £3000 towards the repairs of the footpath between the Recreation Ground and the Godmanchester Lock. A meeting with the footpaths officer and the EA would be arranged to plan the work.

Councillor KYNOCH reported that HILTON had applied to have its present night-time ban on lorries over 7.5 tonnes extended to a permanent 24-hour ban. This would result in an increase in the number of HGVs travelling through Godmanchester; perhaps as many as 400 per day. The Town Clerk was to write to CCC to express concern about the impact of yet more heavy vehicles on inappropriate roads and to ask that a more holistic approach be taken to the problem rather than the present piecemeal one village at a time.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2001.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2001.

The meeting ended at 10.05 pm Town Mayor