

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 16 AUGUST 2001

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor M COHEN, Mrs H HULL

PRESENT: 1 member of the public.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that Mr Martin Williams had volunteered to become the new Mace Bearer. The Mayor gave a short background resume of Mr Williams and asked that the Council endorse his appointment. **AGREED.** The Mayor went on to propose a formal vote of thanks to Mr Harry Foren, the retiring Mace Bearer, who had served the Town with distinction for over 4 years.

The Mayor reported that the Chairman and President of the Godmanchester Senior Citizen's Club (SSC) had approached him with an invitation to the Godmanchester Town Council to hold its monthly meetings in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. The Council accepted the invitation with enthusiasm and the Town Clerk was to write and thank the members of the SSC for their generous offer.

The Mayor reminded councillors of 2 social events. The Twinning Association would be holding a County & Western event on 1 September 2001 and the Rotary Ball would be held at Wood Green on 20 October 2001.

The Mayor then welcomed Mr Michael Lynch and Ms Karen Bell from Huntingdonshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and invited them to give their presentation.

01/048 VISITING SPEAKERS

Mr Lynch, the Chairman of the PCT, explained that the Trust had come into being on 1 April 2001 to improve the health of the community, to develop primary and community services and to commission secondary care services. In doing so it was responsible for everyone registered with GPs in the area and other residents. Ms Bell, the Chief Executive, went on to explain the NHS Plan, the key challenges and the achievements so far. The achievements included a new GP practice in Huntingdon, improved consistency of prescribing medicines, reduced delays in discharging people from hospital and successfully meeting some categories of waiting times. There were many more targets for the future.

The big change in the approach of the PCT was its ability to work in partnership with local government and voluntary organisations while also involving the general public, patients and staff. Continual feedback was vital if problems were to be identified and solved quickly.

In a short question and answer session it was explained that all GP surgeries advertise the complaints procedures to enable the feedback to the PCT to take place. Liaison with external agencies had been improved through a website and newsletters, and a new relationship with Social Services had been established which permitted resources to be pooled. This had allowed the creation of joint teams dealing with, for example, housing, children's problems and help for the elderly. This was ground-breaking work and the learning process was still very much in evidence.

The speakers accepted there were insufficient doctors, consultants and other health staff. Equally, more wards were needed in the hospital. All this would take time to rectify but initially the problem of A&E was being addressed. Attendance at A&E appeared to be far too high and the reasons for that had to be examined. Finally, there would be a strong link between the PCT and schools both through a Health Education Programme and via the school nurses who would provide a valuable conduit for reporting abuse.

The Mayor then thanked the speakers for a most interesting and informative presentation and noted their willingness to return in the future to provide an update on the progress of the PCT.

01/049 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record. Three amendments had been made to the original draft. The title of the MP for Huntingdonshire had been corrected, "Archbishop" had been amended to read "Bishop" in paragraph 2 of the Mayor's announcements and "Monks Bridge" had been amended to read "Cooks Bridge" in Item 01/047.

01/050 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 16 August 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(2) New Town Guide – Several councillors expressed disappointment that nearly 2 years had elapsed since the work had started on the new Town Guide. The Mayor volunteered to encourage Councillor VANE PERCY to complete the project as soon as possible. Ideally, the new guide should be available for the Twinning visit at the end of September. Councillor SPENCER offered to provide advice on layout and printing. Councillor SPENCER also declared an interest due to his professional connection with the printing industry.

01/036 Twinning – The Mayor announced that there would be a Meet & Greet in the QES from 9.30 to 10.30 am on Monday 24 September for up to 150 people. He asked that as many councillors and their spouses as possible come to the event to welcome the visitors and help serve the light refreshments. At 10.30 am the visitors, led by the Mayor, would go in procession to the Huntingdon river bridge where they would be met by the Mayor of Huntingdon. In the evening there would be a small Civic Dinner at the White Hart for the civic guests from the twin towns.

01/018 Storm damaged trees – It was DECIDED to seek a quotation from a tree surgeon for the removal of the fallen trees and the lopping of damaged branches. Councillor COMBEN agreed to define the requirement for the Town Clerk to action.

01/043 Fallen Trees – the Council noted that the Freeman had declined the offer to remove the fallen timber on the Recreation Ground. Closed

New targets dates were established for some outstanding actions:

00/048 Trees on verges September 2001

00/066 Garden of Rest October 2001

00/080 Street signs End October 2001

01/006 Old Mill Sluice Ongoing

01/047 Rec Gnd annual cut September 2001

01/051 CORRESPONDENCE

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

It was AGREED to accept the CALC proposal to allow the Town Council direct access to NALC.

The Council noted the recent false intruder alarms at JF and that the poor quality of the “referees door” was a contributory factor. The Town Clerk was to seek a quotation from Ashley and Foster to either replace and/or strengthen the door or alter the hanging so that it would open outwards.

The Council noted the conditions associated with grants from the Goddliff Fund. The Town Clerk was to investigate whether the publication of the new Town Guide would qualify.

The Council noted that a guest speaker from the Cambridgeshire Community Network would attend the Council Meeting on 15 November 2001.

The Mayor and Councillor SURSHAM volunteered to represent the Town Council at the second round of judging for the Cambridgeshire Village of the Year competition 2001. The event would take place at Abbots Ripton Village Hall on 5 September 2001.

The Council noted that Councillor VANE PERCY would attend the Environment Agency Flood Warning Meeting on 3 October 2001.

The Council noted the letter of thanks from the Godmanchester Under-9B football team.

01/052 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

01/053 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.

After a lengthy discussion about the appropriate way to ensure that Godmanchester retained its current pharmaceutical services it was AGREED that the Council should withdraw its

objection to application 01/01038/FUL, 12 The Causeway. The decision was dependent on the assurance given by Mr Patel to preserve the continuity of service being honoured.

The Council noted the proposals from Gallagher Estates for a Cambridge Area Metro and a new settlement. The Town Clerk was to copy the information to the Civic Society with a request that they include the items on the agenda of their next public meeting on CHUMMS.

01/054 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had not met.

It was AGREED that:

A licence for public entertainment at JF was not required and the existing licence would not be renewed.

The Property WP would be the focal point for all matters concerning the fabric of JF.

Any interim refurbishment at JF would be deferred until the Rovers FC had moved to the Bearscroft site.

The next meeting would be at 8 pm on Thursday, 30 August 2001 at 4 Crowhill.

Environment. The WP had met on 8 August 2001 and Cllr COMBEN provided a written record. It was AGREED that:

The Town Clerk would seek a quotation from Ashley & Foster for the preparation and painting (black) of the railings on The Avenue.

The Town Clerk would ask HDC to establish a tarmacadam footpath along that section of Tudor Road between the cul-de-sac to Stuart Close and White Hart Lane.

The Town Clerk would write to the Director of Operational Services at HDC stating that the proposed time-scales for commenting on the CHUMMS reports were too short to ensure that a detailed assessment could be carried out.

The Town Council would consider forming an alliance of all the towns and villages likely to be affected by the CHUMMS preferred southern alignment with the aim of preparing a common stance.

The preferred location for the TIP would be on School Hill in the vicinity of the Chinese Bridge. The site on The Causeway was rejected but there was strong support for the site in the Mill Yard car park with the final decision depending on the casting vote of the Mayor.

The refurbishment of the existing School Hill notice board would be considered once the TIP was in place.

The Town Clerk would ask HDC to tarmacadam the footpath between Pipers Lane and Pinfold Lane (The Styles).

The Environment WP would carry out a comprehensive review of litterbins in the Town and recommend sites for new ones.

Recreation and Amenities. The WP had not met but the next meeting would be on Thursday, 30 August 2001 at 4 Crowhill immediately after the Finance WP. The agenda would address the implications of the so far unsuccessful bid to WREN and the quotations for tarmac at JF

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Councillor SPENCER left the meeting at 10.00 pm.

Property. Councillor SURSHAM reported that HDC had granted £3000 towards the cost of the project to refurbish the Church gates, walls and railings. However, a condition of the award was that the work had to be completed by August 2002. He advised that, following a query from the Diocese, the old railings could and would be reused. To date he had only 2 valid quotations for the work but would be seeking a third. Planning permission was awaited from HDC and a bid to SITA for a landfill tax grant would be made once the total cost of the project had been determined. There was also a need for the Town Council to approve the re-costed project and to decide whether to increase the financial provision made so far.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 22 August 2001 at 20 Earning Street

Cemetery. The WP had not met. A recommendation from Councillor COHEN to write to the Town Crier to refute the recent article about the plans for the cemetery was discussed. On balance it was DECIDED that nothing would be gained by the further involvement of the newspaper and that direct contact with the people concerned was much preferred.

Judith's Field. The WP had not met. Councillor GOFF advised that he was awaiting new plans from Mr Stokes. He requested that he be allowed to spend £15 on documents from the Charity Commission that would assist him in progressing the project. AGREED.

Other Representative Groups.

CALC/NALC Councillor KYNOCH reported that there had been no meetings of CALC/NALC groups. The next would be on 20 September 2001.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor KYNOCH again expressed his disquiet that Godmanchester was increasingly referred to as a Market Town despite it not being so designated.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2001.

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm Town Mayor