

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors C VANE PERCY, A HOOKER, S SPENCER

PRESENT: No members of the public.

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for leading the Town Council during his recent absence and reported that she had represented the Town at 3 events.

He announced that the Christmas Carol Service would take place on School Hill on 15 December 2001 starting at 6.30 pm. He hoped that as many Councillors as possible would attend. It was AGREED that up to £100 could be spent on sweets for Santa Clause to distribute to children at the Service.

The Carol Service would be preceded by the now traditional Children's Christmas Party hosted by the Mayor. After some discussion it was AGREED that up to £200 could be spent on an entertainer, food and festive decorations. The Mayor would provide the balance from the Mayoral Purse. The party would be for approximately 70 young children (5 to 8 year-olds) representing a cross-section of the groups and schools in Godmanchester.

01/068 PRESENTATION BY VISITING SPEAKER

Ms Liz Blackshaw from the Cambridgeshire Community Network had, unfortunately, been taken ill at the last moment and the presentation had been postponed. It would be rearranged for 2002.

01/069 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 October 2001 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record. References to "Sportsfest" had been amended to read "Youthfest".

01/070 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 15 November 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).

00/047(5) Bid for Landfill Tax Grant – WREN had advised that a further £50 was needed to meet the third party funding requirement. Sears Publishing had pledged the sum and the

Town Clerk was to advise WREN accordingly. Mr Spencer, the Director of Sears Publishing, was thanked for his generosity.

Councillor KYNOCH arrived at 7.54 pm

01/034 (Env) Toll Cottages parking – CCC had advised, by telephone, that it would not fund projects of this nature. Written confirmation would follow. Closed. However, Councillor WILSON observed that the Huntingdonshire Local Plan, Part 1, Para 5.75 highlighted the lack of off-street parking and tasked HDC with identifying suitable and available sites. The Town Clerk was to determine what progress HDC had made in this matter.

01/036 Wall between School and Parish Church – All efforts to establish the ownership of the wall had failed. Despite assurances from Councillor VANE PERCY that it had been sold to the school authorities along with the land, no documentary evidence could be found. The position regarding the transfer of the Nonconformist Burial Ground from the Trustees to the Parish Church was also unclear. The matter was therefore closed until such time as a formal approach was made to the Town Council regarding the Burial Ground and the associated wall.

01/041(Env) Lime trees surgery – The investigation into the “ownership” of the Lime Trees on The Avenue had dragged on for 3 years and had reached an impasse with both HDC (as Lord of the Manor) and the Freemen of Godmanchester declining to accept responsibility. Similarly, the CCC Highways Authority denied responsibility. As the Town Council had warned all the parties in writing of the potential hazard to the public of not carrying out maintenance of the trees, there was nothing further the Town could do. Closed.

01/071 CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Council noted the letter of thanks from the British Legion in relation to the purchase of the Remembrance Day wreath.

The Council noted the letter from Miss Amanda Evans regarding youth clubs but accepted that the Town Clerk’s reply had covered the matter. Moreover, it was unlikely that another youth club or a drop-in centre could be established unless more youth workers or youth leaders could be found. The provision of a suitable building was also a major hurdle.

The Council noted the letter of thanks from the Godmanchester Community Primary School for the grant to support subsidised swimming during the summer holidays.

Councillor KYNOCH volunteered to become the Council’s representative on the Citizens Advice Bureaux Management Committee.

The Council noted the changes to the Whippet Bus Timetables.

The Mayor advised the Council that he would review the DEFRA consultation paper “Quality Parish and Town Councils”. He would make the document available to any other councillor who wished to read it.

The Council noted that the Cambridgeshire Police Authority questionnaire had been passed to Councillor Mrs HULL for completion.

Councillor Mrs LOOKER had agreed to attend one of the Cambridgeshire ACRE “Vital Villages Funding Roadshows”.

The Town Clerk was to send copies of the HDC grant application pack to the Baptist Church and the Parish Church for their information / action.

01/072 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

01/073 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 Town Clerk was to contact the East of England Planning Aid to ask if a volunteer would attend a Planning WP to give advice on the recent Betts Close planning decision and other planning matters.

Councillor WILSON left the meeting at 8.39 pm

01/074 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had met on 30 October 2001 and made the following proposals:

That up to £25,000 be allocated in the current FY to the new playground equipment on the Recreation Ground (an increase of £5,000 on the money already voted). AGREED but Councillor KYNOCH opposed the proposal and also expressed his disquiet about the way the matter had been presented. However, the Mayor stated that he was satisfied that every step of the proposal had been exposed to public scrutiny and had been fully discussed at previous Council Meetings.

That up to £2,500 be budgeted in the current FY for repairs to the QES heating system following the recent discovery of leaks and rusting pipework. AGREED.

That up to £6,500 be set aside in the current FY for the construction of a Garden of Remembrance in the London Road Cemetery. AGREED.

That up to £1,800 be allocated in FY 02/03 for internal redecoration at JF. AGREED.

That up to £4,000 be allocated in FY 02/03 for the restoration of the lawning in the cemetery. AGREED.

That £6,500 be allocated to the 2002 Jubilee Year Picnic in the Park. AGREED. The Town Clerk was to advise the Community Association accordingly.

That the Mayoral Purse for FY 02/03 be supplemented by £600 to allow the Mayor to purchase Jubilee Mugs for the younger children in the Town. AGREED.

Councillor Mrs MOORE then presented the detailed budget calculations for FY 2002/2003 and proposed an unchanged precept of £99,000. AGREED.

Recreation and Amenities The WP had met on 30 October 2001. The Town Clerk reported that the tarmacadam at JF would be laid in the week starting 19 November 2001.

Environment. The WP had met on 30 October 2001 and made the following recommendations:

That the rough area on the East bank of the Recreation Ground be cut at a cost of £165.00. AGREED.

That the litter bin on the Ouse Valley Way behind the cricket pitch be emptied weekly at a cost of £2.50 per week. AGREED.

That an initial litter-pick and stone-pick be carried out at JF to a maximum cost of £165.00 (ie 12 man-hours) after which the area would be inspected before further work was authorised. AGREED.

That an initial cut of the whole JF skatepark area including the banks be carried out at a cost of £465.00. AGREED.

That an initial sweep and clearance of weeds and debris from the skatepark tarmac area be carried out at a cost of £85.00. AGREED.

That subsequently the tarmac area be swept once per week at a cost of £25.00. AGREED.

That the flat rough area be cut next season at a cost of £65.00 per cut based on 6 cuts per year. AGREED

That the banks be cut at a cost of £335.00 per cut based on 2 cuts per year. AGREED.

The Town Clerk was to advise Fergusons accordingly.

It was also AGREED to accept the quotation from Glasdons in the sum of £425.39 for replacement lifebuoys and other water safety equipment.

Property. The WP had not met.

Cemetery. The WP had met on 30 October 2001. Councillor COHEN presented the latest version of the Regulations and Charges for the London Road cemetery. These were approved but it was noted that there were no dimensions for ashes plots. Councillor COHEN agreed to add these details and then seek final approval at the December meeting. Once approved, the Regulations and Charges would be sent to all funeral directors and stone masons with details of the hand-over of administrative responsibilities to Godmanchester Town Council on 1 April 2001. That letter was also to advise the undertakers that Godmanchester Town Council would not be employing a gravedigger.

The initial design for the Garden of Remembrance had been circulated to councillors and comments were requested before 13 December 2001. It was intended to construct the garden in the current FY.

Judith's Field. Councillor GOFF reported that outline planning permission for JF had been granted and that HDC had imposed sound conditions and provided useful guidelines.

The next meeting of the WP would be at JF at 8.00 pm on Thursday, 29 November 2001.

Other Representative Groups.

CALC/NALC Councillor KYNOCH had attended the Rural Renewal National Conference and the CALC AGM. He reported that publication of the Corporate Plan 2002 had been delayed for 12 months to allow it to become more substantial.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was concern that the regular traction engine rallies in Godmanchester might cause damage to the new "quiet" road surface on The Avenue, Cambridge Road and Cambridge Street. The Town Clerk was to seek advice from HDC.

The Board in the Town Hall listing past Town Mayors and Bailiffs was deteriorating and there was a danger that the detail might be lost. The Town Clerk was to seek a quotation for a full restoration and also try to determine what was causing the deterioration. As an interim measure, the Town Clerk was to arrange for the board to be photographed.

The floods of 21 October 2001, unprecedented in the recent history of Godmanchester, were the result of 4 1/2 inches (110 mm) of rain in a period of 24 hours .

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2001. (Gowned)

The meeting ended at 10. 02 pm Town Mayor