

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2002**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor
Councillors D BROWN, M COHEN, D COMBEN, Mrs B MOORE, R NORRIS, S
SPENCER, A SURSHAM, Mrs P TYLER, G WILSON
Town Clerk: A J WELTON

APOLOGIES: Councillor E KYNOCH

ABSENT: Councillors A GOFF, Mrs H HULL, C VANE PERCY

PRESENT: Mace Bearer Mr M WILLIAMS

PRESENT: There were 5 members of the public present.

OUTGOING TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The outgoing Mayor asked the Reverend Peter Moger to lead the Council in prayers for the Town, the new Mayor, Councillors and the Queen.

The retiring Town Mayor, Councillor NORRIS, reported that he had represented the Town on 10 occasions since the last meeting.

The Mayor reminded all councillors that the 28 day period allowed for the completion of the Registration of Financial and other Interests form under the Local Government Act 2000 Part III expired on 16 May 2002 and that all completed forms were to be returned to the Town Clerk by 1:00pm on 17 May 2002.

Councillors Mrs MOORE, Mrs TYLER and WILSON arrived at 7:35pm

The Mayor's Charity Dinner had been extremely well attended and had raised £300 on the night.

Cllr NORRIS thanked all the councillors for their assistance during his term as Town Mayor. In particular, he expressed his gratitude to the retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs LOOKER, for her considerable support. In conclusion, the Mayor expressed his wholehearted support for Councillor Mrs LOOKER as the new Town Mayor and wished her well for the coming year.

Councillor COMBEN arrived at 7:45pm

02/030 INAUGURATION OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR 2002/2003

Councillor Mrs A M LOOKER, having been duly elected to the office of the Town Mayor of Godmanchester at the Godmanchester Town Council Meeting on the 18th April 2002, made and signed the formal declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Town Clerk.

She thanked the Town Council for its vote of confidence and said that she considered it a privilege and honour to serve as Town Mayor. She also thanked the outgoing Mayor for his unstinting devotion to the appointment.

02/031 INAUGURATION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2002/2003

Councillor S R SPENCER, having been duly elected to the office of the Deputy Town Mayor of Godmanchester at the Godmanchester Town Council Meeting on 18 April 2002, made and signed the formal declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Town Clerk.

02/032 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2002 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

02/033 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 16 May 2002 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).

Whilst not formally entered into the previous minutes, it was noted that the attention of the Enforcement Officer had been drawn to the proliferation of barbecue equipment in the front garden of 41 Cambridge Street Godmanchester.

01/081(Env) Post Street Cycle Path. Cllr NORRIS reported that he had met with both HDC and CCC who had been in favour of the project. After due consideration it had been confirmed that there would be an advisory route.

99/048(2) New Town Guide. The proof of the new town guide had been viewed by Cllr SURSHAM and was being sent to Cllr VANE PERCY for further comment before being returned to the printers for final printing.

21 March 2002 AOB ATM machine. The Abbey National had written to advise that their allocation of ATMs had been fully allocated. Cllr COHEN volunteered to contact other banking organisations to ascertain whether there was any prospect of introducing an ATM into the Town.

02/034 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence listed at Appendix A not covered by the WP reports was addressed.

02/035 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

02/036 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.

02/00720/FUL Extension to dwelling at 6 Wigmore Close Godmanchester. This application had been considered and APPROVED at the Town Council meeting on 21 March 2002. However, this correspondence was an amendment, deleting the balcony and changing the flat roof over the single storey extension for a pitched roof. The Council felt that, as there was no major difference between this application and the original, this too should be APPROVED.

Cllr WILSON volunteered to attend the Development Control Panel meeting on 20 May 2002.

Full appreciation was expressed for the contribution made to the Planning Working Party by Cllr NORRIS during the temporary illness of Cllr BROWN.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm to allow questions from the public.

Mr H Foren, speaking on behalf of the Community Association, congratulated the new Town Mayor on her appointment and offered the support of the Association.

District Councillor C W Looker also congratulated the new Town Mayor on her appointment. He went on to explain his involvement in the Huntingdon Local Plan Alteration and informed the Town Council that he would be declaring personal but not prejudicial interest. He informed the meeting that he had been elected to the Standards Committee with special involvement concerning the new code of conduct. He urged all Town Councillors to read their copies of the code.

Mrs C Simons and her husband, Mr D Mascord, informed the meeting of the outcome of their residents' meeting concerning the proposed developments at Roman Way, London Road and Wigmore Farm. Whilst they accepted that the Town Council had done all they could to represent the views of the town residents, it was their intention to attempt to put pressure on members of the District Planning Committee.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30pm.

02/037 COMPOSITION OF WORKING PARTIES

The Mayor explained that she thought that there should be a review of the various Working Parties (WP) to determine whether they were needed and to confirm which Councillors would be in the chair of each.

Recreation and Amenities. It was decided that a WP was not required on a permanent basis but could be reconvened as necessary.

Cemetery. As the Cemetery was now under Town Council control, there was no longer a need to have a permanent WP. This WP was therefore declared dormant.

Environment. Cllr COMBEN explained that with his business commitments he felt that he was not able to do justice to his appointment as chair of this WP. He regretted that he would have to resign from that position. Cllr NORRIS volunteered to take over the chair.

Planning. The composition of this WP would remain with Cllr BROWN in the chair with the assistance of Cllr WILSON as required.

Finance. Cllr Mrs MOORE would remain as the chair of this WP.

Judiths Field. Cllr GOFF would remain as the chair of this WP.

CALC/NALC. Cllr KYNOCK would continue to attend meetings and be assisted by Cllr NORRIS as necessary.

02/038 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Finance. The WP had not met. The next meeting would be at 8:00pm on Thursday 6 June 2002 at 4 Crowhill.

Recreation and Amenities. This WP had not met and was next due to meet at 8:00pm on Thursday 6 June 2002 at 4 Crowhill.

Environment. The WP had not met. Cllrs COMBEN and NORRIS would meet to hand over responsibilities. The next meeting would be at 8:00pm on Thursday 6 June 2002 at 4 Crowhill.

The Town Clerk was to pursue HDC for a response to the survey carried out by Cllr GOFF into all street signage in Godmanchester.

The Town Clerk was to hasten Ashley & Foster for the completion of painting of the railings on both sides of The Avenue.

The Town Clerk was requested to supply the chair of the Finance WP with copies of all Fergusons statements as they occurred.

The Town Clerk was to proceed with the order for two new town signs, as APPROVED by the Town Council at the previous meeting.

Property. Cllr SURSHAM informed the meeting that the contractor for the church railings, Mr Chatters, had withdrawn due to ill health. Cllr SURSHAM would approach other contractors for quotations for the work.

There was much discussion concerning the central heating and gas leakage in QES. It was AGREED that Mr D Stokes, Chairman of the Friends of QES, should be asked to provide a detailed specification of what work needed to be carried out. In the meantime, the Town Clerk was to hasten the Conservation Officer for a reply concerning what works could or could not be carried out in this listed building.

Cemetery. The WP had not met and was now in abeyance until necessary.

Judith's Field. The WP had not met.

Other Representative Groups.

CALC/NALC The WP had not met.

Twinning Association Cllr Mrs TYLER reported that she had represented the HGTA in Wertheim to promote tourism in Huntingdon and Godmanchester.

Councillor COMBEN departed at 10:28pm.

Councillor WILSON departed at 10:30pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

After some discussion, it was agreed that it was appropriate to present the school children of Godmanchester with a memento of the Queen's Jubilee. In addition to the £600 already added to the Mayoral Purse, it was AGREED to supplement that sum by an extra £400.

Cllr COHEN advised that he expected to receive a final answer on the swimming pool by the end of June 2002.

Cllr BROWN enquired about the provision of identity passes for members of the Town Council. He explained that, when carrying out his duties as chair of the Planning WP, it was occasionally necessary for him to enter private property. The Town Clerk was to seek advice.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 20 JUNE 2002.

The meeting ended 10:37 pm Town Mayor