

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2003

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor
Councillors D ASHWORTH, D BROWN, M COHEN, D COMBEN, A GOFF, Mrs B MOORE, R NORRIS, S SPENCER, A SURSHAM, C VANE PERCY, G WILSON
Town Clerk: A J WELTON

APOLOGIES: Councillor E KYNOCH

ABSENT: Councillor Mrs H HULL

PRESENT: There were 7 members of the public present.

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 on 2 occasions. The Mayor advised the meeting that the Public Inquiry into the footpath around Monks Pit had appeared to go well and wished to record her thanks and appreciation to Cllr COMBEN, who had spent much time and effort in ensuring that the views of Godmanchester and its inhabitants were well represented. She also thanked Cllr NORRIS for his attendance throughout the Inquiry.

The Mayor announced that the date for the **Civic Dinner/Dance at the Comrades Club, would be 2 May 2003.**

Cllrs SURSHAM & VANE PERCY arrived at 7.35pm

03/008 VISITING SPEAKERS

A team of personnel from the Cambridgeshire County Council transport strategy department, supported by personnel from HDC, gave a briefing on the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Draft Transport Strategy Public Consultation. The briefing complemented the public presentations which been made in Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The briefing took the form of graphic representations of the various choke points in the traffic flow in and through the two towns and showed how the draft strategy had, through the use of computer modelling, suggested optimum solutions, although the proposed changes still appeared to produce pinch points in Godmanchester. The solutions complemented the CHUMMS model. The presentation team acknowledged that there was not enough provision of public transport but suggested that the traffic flow solutions might well lead to better provision of public transport in due course.

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to the presentation team, which was CARRIED unanimously. The presentation team agreed that they would come back with an update and would present their findings as a result of this period of public consultation. The Town Council was invited to submit their comments following this update.

03/009 CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR

There were 2 applicants for the vacant position created by the resignation of Mrs P Tyler; Mr H R Butcher and Mr W D Butterworth. Both were invited to give their reasons for wishing to become a councillor. Each gave a brief resume of their careers and answered questions from members of the Town Council. The Mayor thanked them both for attending and informed them that they would be advised of the decision as soon as possible.

Both candidates having left the meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously for Mr Butterworth to replace Mrs Tyler.

03/010 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2003 were APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

03/011 MATTERS ARISING

The Mayor informed the meeting that Huntingdon Town Council had asked that Godmanchester Town Council contribute 25% of the cost of the airfare of the Chairman of HGTA to Szentendre. This amounted to £58.03. It was AGREED that this amount would be paid from the overall amount set aside for support of Twinning activities in the year 2003 as a precedent had been set in 2002.

03/001 Huntingdon Health Care Trust. Cllr WILSON asked the Town Clerk to ascertain whether the lists at Roman Gate Surgery were full necessitating new patients having to attend the Acorn Surgery, and if so to write to the Trust expressing the concern of the Council.

03/012 CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Mayor reminded those present that they had all received details of the James I progress through Godmanchester in 1603 and she wished to ascertain what involvement the Town Council would have in marking the anniversary. It was DECIDED that the Town Council would make a grant from S137 funding of up to £500.00 in support of the event and that the event should progress in the name of the Town Council. All Councillors were asked to support the event, which would take place at the Godmanchester Community Primary School on 29 April 2003.

Referring to the quotation received from Mr O'Connor for alterations to the skirting boards in QES, Cllr SURSHAM questioned the need to insert brass ventilating strips when there were other, less expensive solutions. It was AGREED that Mr O'Connor would be invited to quote for the revised specification.

The quotation of £75.00 every 6 months received from Mr Lanigan for the cleaning of the ceilings, beams etc in QES was APPROVED.

A quotation for repairs to the roof of the Town Hall had been received from Standens but it gave no details of the work to be carried out. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would seek 2 further estimates for the work.

03/013 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

Cllr GOFF informed the meeting that there was a requirement for a new vacuum cleaner for Judith's Field. The type recommended was a "Henry". The Town Clerk had ascertained that such a model was available from Argos at a price of £94.00 including VAT. This sum was APPROVED.

The Town Clerk reminded the meeting that they had approved the sum of £20.00 for the annual subscription to the Association of Burial Authorities in November 2002. Subsequently he had been notified by CALC that the new subscription rate for the year 2003 was £35.00 and they had returned the cheque for £20.00. The Town Council APPROVED the sum of £35.00 for the year 2003 subscription.

03/014 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.

03/015 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Flood Defences.

The WP, arranged by Cllr Mrs HULL, had been well attended and presentations by the Environment Agency and Mr Richard Preston of HDC had proved very informative and worthwhile.

Alconbury Airport Consultation.

There had been no further meeting of the WP but Cllr ASHWORTH advised the Town Council that he had received a copy of a reply from the MP, Jonathan Djanogly, covering a response from PUS Transport. The MP undertook to continue to follow the issue closely.

Finance.

Whilst there had not been a formal meeting of the WP, Cllrs COMBEN, NORRIS and Mrs MOORE had met to discuss and define the schedule of work for the Grounds Maintenance contract, which was due for re-letting in April 2003. Cllr NORRIS had carried out various surveys for inclusion in the specifications. Invitations to tender would be sent out on 24 February 2003. The next meeting of the WP would be at 4 Crowhill on Tuesday 11 March 2003 at 8.00pm.

Environment.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that he had ordered 3 new lifebuoys to replace those that had disappeared recently. The total cost would be £245.85 plus VAT. The Town Council APPROVED this expenditure.

The next meeting of the Environment WP would be at 4 Crowhill on Tuesday 11 March 2003 at 8.00pm.

Cllr VANE PERCY departed at 10.00pm.

Property.

There had been a meeting of the WP on 18 February 2003 at which it had been decided to invite 3 contractors to tender for the redecoration of the entrance hall, kitchen and both meeting rooms in QES. A specification had been prepared and quotations were required to be returned for consideration by 7 March 2003.

Cllr SURSHAM produced a drawing of the 2 options for re-siting the lamp at the church gates in Church Place. It was AGREED that the light should be on an arch above the double gates and the Town Clerk was to submit the drawing to HDC with the recommendation that the light should be over the double gates.

Cllr COMBEN departed at 10.10pm.

Judith's Field.

Cllr GOFF advised the meeting that he had received a letter from 3rd Godmanchester Brownies expressing their concern at the lack of lighting outside the Judith's Field building and that he had forwarded a copy to HDC in support of this Council's bid for funding for new security lighting. Various applications were now in the pipeline and it was hoped that funding might be forthcoming soon.

The Skate park at Judith's Field was in need of re-painting, especially the surfaces of the ramps. These surfaces were beginning to deteriorate and the Town Clerk was to write to HDC asking when the re-painting would take place.

Cllr GOFF also indicated that the fence around Judith's Field was in need of repair and the Town Clerk was to seek quotations for that work.

As the work on improving the facilities and ambience of Judith's Field was almost complete it was suggested that the Property and Judith's Field WP work could be amalgamated.
APPROVED.

Cemetery.

Cllr COHEN advised the meeting that there were 6 Commonwealth War Graves in the churchyard cemetery, one of which was in need of some attention.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the spoils from new graves had been encroaching into the cemetery but that the Community Services project team had volunteered to remove it to a less visible location. After some discussion it was mooted that a re-write of the cemetery regulations could be worded in such a way as to require the funeral directors to ensure that spoils were removed by their grave-digger. There would have to be a concomitant adjustment of charges.

Cllr COHEN expressed his concern at the state of the car park in the cemetery. He suggested that it needed a heavy roller and several tons of gravel to provide a reasonable surface. The Town Clerk was to investigate.

Now that the work on the creation of the Garden of Remembrance was nearing completion, the Town Clerk was to ask HDC to replace the bollard at the entrance to the cemetery.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Town Clerk reminded the meeting that there would be a Town Meeting on 6 March 2003 at which Mr C Jablonski, the HDC Environmental Team Leader had been invited to speak. Chairs of the various working parties were reminded that they would be required to deliver a short verbal report on their areas of responsibility. The meeting would be gowned.

The Mayor drew members' attention to the inclusion of nomination papers for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in their packs. Nominations were to be with the consent of those nominated.

Cllr COHEN asked the Town Clerk to hasten an update from the Alliance & Leicester Bank on the prospects of installing an ATM in Godmanchester, particularly as changes to Post Office procedures included the requirement for people to have bank accounts.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 20 MARCH 2003 (gowned).

The meeting ended 11.03pm Town Mayor