

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2003

PRESENT: Councillors D ASHWORTH, D BROWN, D COMBEN, A GOFF, Mrs H HULL, E KYNOCH, Mrs B MOORE, R NORRIS, G WILSON
Town Clerk: A J WELTON

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor, W D BUTTERWORTH Deputy Town Mayor, M COHEN, A SURSHAM, C VANE PERCY

There was 1 member of the public present.

Due to the absence of both the Town Mayor and the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor NORRIS was proposed as Chairman for this meeting. APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had submitted a report in which she advised that she had represented the Town on 5 occasions since the last meeting.

She advised that she had received an invitation from The Allotment Association to provide judges for the Best Kept Allotment competition to be held on either 23 June or 30 June beginning at 7.30pm and asked for volunteers. Cllrs KYNOCH and NORRIS indicated that they would be willing to act as judges on 30 June 2003. The Town Clerk was to inform the Allotment Association.

Cllr Mrs MOORE arrived at 7.35pm.

The Mayor also commended the new edition of the Bridge magazine to the members of the Town Council. Few of the Cllrs had actually received a copy but of those who had, Cllr WILSON expressed his disquiet that Cllrs e-mail addresses had been included. Councillor Ashworth felt that a better explanation of the "responsibilities" recorded against each Cllr's name would have been to indicate where they were the chair of a Working Party. The Town Clerk was to notify the editor of the Bridge.

Cllr COMBEN arrived at 7.44pm.

Finally the Mayor wished to remind all Cllrs that Gala Week and Picnic in the Park were imminent and called upon them to give their support where possible.

Cllr Mrs HULL arrived at 7.47pm.

03/041 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 May 2003 were APPROVED but could not be signed as a complete and accurate record because the Mayor, who had presided at that meeting, was not present. The minutes would be presented for signature at the next meeting in July.

03/042 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 19 June 2003 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).

03/032 WP Reports – Cemetery. The Town Clerk had written to the Highways Department concerning car park specifications and was awaiting a reply. The Town Clerk was to hasten a reply.

Any Other Business. The Town Clerk had written to HDC concerning the state of the Ouse Valley Way footpath and was awaiting a reply. The Town Clerk was to hasten a reply.

03/037 Correspondence. A reply from Mr O'Connor about the central heating system in QES was still awaited. The Town Clerk was to hasten a reply so that any work could be carried out before the winter months.

01/054 (Env). Cllr NORRIS confirmed that the tarmac footpaths had now been completed and this subject could be deleted from the Outstanding Actions List.

03/040 (Env). The Town Clerk had queried the increased cost of providing the hanging baskets on the Town Bridge with Fergusons. Fergusons had indicated that on their first 3-year contract they had underestimated the cost of installing and maintaining those baskets and now that there was a new contract in force (from which the baskets had been omitted) they were quoting a more realistic figure. On a majority (5:4) vote, it was decided that the cost of £150.00 per basket be APPROVED but the Town Clerk was to obtain assurances from Fergusons that this figure did not include an element of clawback from the previous underestimation. Similarly, the Town Clerk was to record the Town Council's discontent at the size of the increase. Fergusons were to be advised to invoice Huntingdon Town Council separately.

03/043 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Cllrs Mrs MOORE, ASHWORTH and COMBEN took exception to the tone of the letter sent to the GMC Youth Football Club concerning their request to use Judith's Field as a car park during a two day tournament, notwithstanding that it had merely sought to indicate those matters which might be debated at this meeting of the Town Council. The letter had been sent as an early warning of the possible worst case scenario so that, if necessary, the football club could implement alternative arrangements, given the timing of their request and the proximity of the Town Council meeting to the actual event. On a majority vote (5:4), it was DECIDED that the Town Clerk was to inform the GMC Youth Football Club that they could use Judith's Field as a car park, free of charge, but they were to be informed that they would be liable for any damage and for litter clearance.

03/044 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk was to provide Cllr Mrs MOORE with a copy of the Zurich Insurance schedule.

03/045 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

HDC Elections Manager had written to inform the Town Clerk that he had not received any requests for an election to be held following the resignation of Mr Stephen Spencer. The Town Council was now at liberty to fill the position by co-option. The Town Clerk reminded the meeting that they had previously considered an application from Mr Richard Butcher and suggested that, in light of there being no other applicants, Mr Butcher should be invited to become a Councillor. This was APPROVED unanimously. The Town Clerk was to write to Mr Butcher inviting him to become a Town Councillor.

03/046 S137 GRANTS

The list of applications was reviewed and the following grants under S137 were APPROVED:

3rd GMC Brownie Pack £140
East Anglian Air Ambulance £50.
ChildLine East Midlands & East Anglia £50.
Hinchingsbrooke Keyhole Appeal £100
East Anglia's Children's Hospices £50
Hunts' Regional College – School of Music £200
Riverside Rangers FC £400
1st GMC Brownies £214.30
The Salvation Army £200
3rd GMC Rainbows £100
GMC Baptist Church – Holiday Club £500
Rotary Club of Huntingdon NIL
Picnic in the Park 2003 £6500
St Mary's Parish Church £1200
Cambridge & GMC Cricket Club £600
Huntingdon Community Radio £50

The Town Clerk was to write to each of the applicants notifying them of the results of their applications.

03/047 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.

Cllr WILSON left the meeting at 9.30pm.

03/048 CHAIRMANSHIP OF WORKING PARTIES

The Mayor had previously asked the Town Clerk to trawl the existing chairs of the various Working Parties (WP) to confirm their willingness to continue in office. He had e-mailed all Cllrs on 30 May 2003 and had positive responses from the Chairs of Judith's Field, Environment, Cemetery (even though this WP had formally ceased to exist, Cllr COHEN had indicated a willingness to field all matters related to the Cemetery) Alconbury Airfield

Consultation, and A14 Southern By-pass WPs. Those other Chairs present at the meeting were asked to confirm their willingness to continue in office.

Planning. Cllr BROWN would continue to Chair this WP with assistance from Cllr WILSON as required but he did explain that he would be unable to chair the next 3 meetings as he would be recuperating from surgery.

Finance. Cllr Mrs MOORE would remain as Chair of this WP.

Flood Defences and Youth Work. Cllr Mrs HULL would continue to be the point of contact on these ad hoc Working Parties.

CALC/NALC. Cllrs KYNOCH and NORRIS would continue to represent the Town Council.

03/049 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Alconbury Airport Consultation/A14 re-alignment. Cllr ASHWORTH reported that he had made contact with the Highways Agency who had advised that they were awaiting the appointment of a consultant and would be prepared to discuss matters with him following that appointment, which was expected to be in early July.

Flood Defences. The WP had not met since the last Town Council meeting.

Finance. The WP had not met since the last Town Council meeting. Cllr Mrs MOORE asked the Town Clerk to send an engagement letter to the Internal Auditor, in accordance with specimen provided in the CALC Bulletin, May 2003 edition.

Environment. The WP had not met since the last Town Council meeting. Cllr NORRIS referred to the letter received from the Godmanchester Angling and Fish Preservation Society in which it was alleged that the river banks adjacent to the Recreation Ground were owned by Godmanchester Town Council. This was refuted. HDC was in receipt of lease monies from the Society and it was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to HDC inviting them to utilise their revenue to repair the river banks.

Property/Judith's Field. Cllr GOFF informed the meeting that Ringway Lighting had been awarded the contract to provide the security lighting at Judith's Field. The new metal grille for securing the door to the Referee's room was still awaited but would be installed shortly. He requested that he be allowed to spend up to £50.00 on paint so that the main hall could be painted. APPROVED. He intended to carry out this work himself.

Cemetery. In the absence of Cllr COHEN, the Town Clerk informed the meeting that the new Notice Board for the Cemetery had been delivered and was now awaiting installation.

Other Representative Groups. Cllr Mrs HULL reported that a meeting had been held at Judith's Field (JF) on 27 May 2003 at which the positioning of a Youth Shelter at JF had been discussed as had resurrection of the scheme to provide a dirt track for bike riders. Cllr BROWN reported that he and the Mayor had been to inspect the facilities provided for youth in the village of Southoe. This was an ISO container that had provided an outlet for graffiti artists but the artwork was all inside the container. He undertook to investigate the

availability and cost of providing a similar outlet for the youth of Godmanchester. Cllr Mrs HULL indicated that the meeting at JF had formed the opinion that mini football pitches should be marked out at JF. As there was plenty of room for this to be done without being detrimental to the flexibility of the facilities, it was DECIDED that the Town Clerk was to ascertain the cost of marking out 2 mini soccer pitches.

CALC/NALC. Cllrs KYNOCH and NORRIS had attended the CALC AGM on 18 June 2003. The meeting had highlighted new regulations for Local Authorities Members' Allowances. A copy of the regulations was passed to Cllr Mrs MOORE for scrutiny.

Cllr COMBEN left the meeting at 10.30pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Town Clerk would be on holiday from 28 June 2003 until 6 July 2003. His Assistant, Mrs Hakimi would run the Town Office in his absence.

Cllr BROWN asked if there had been any more action to progress the installation of an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) in Godmanchester. The matter had been deleted from the Outstanding Actions List some months ago because none of the banking organisations approached had expressed any interest. The Town Clerk pointed out that the Post Office provided some basic banking facilities but there was no provision for obtaining cash out of normal working hours. It was DECIDED that Cllr COHEN should be asked to resurrect his investigations into the provision of an ATM in Godmanchester.

Cllr KYNOCH left the meeting at 10.43pm.

Cllr BROWN reported that he had observed that major building works, taking up the majority of the back garden, appeared to be happening at 2 Pinfold Lane but he had not had sight of any planning application. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to the Enforcement Officer to investigate.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 17 JULY 2003 (Gowned).

The meeting ended 10.55pm Chairman