

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE GODMANCHESTER TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 17 JULY 2003**

PRESENT: W D BUTTERWORTH Deputy Town Mayor
Councillors D ASHWORTH, M COHEN, A GOFF, Mrs H HULL, E KYNOCH, Mrs B
MOORE, A SURSHAM, C VANE PERCY, G WILSON
Town Clerk: A J WELTON
Mace Bearer: M WILLIAMS

APOLOGIES: Mrs A LOOKER Town Mayor, Councillors: D BROWN, D COMBEN, H R
BUTCHER, R NORRIS.

There was 1 member of the public present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Town Mayor announced that he had represented the Town on 3 occasions since the last meeting.

Cllrs KYNOCH and Mrs HULL arrived at 7.32pm.

The Deputy Town Mayor advised the Town Council that Mrs Hakimi, the Town Clerk's Assistant, had resigned to take up full time employment. Her last day in the office would be 15 August 2003. The Deputy Mayor wished to record the thanks of the Town Council to Mrs Hakimi for all her hard work over the past 3 years. APPROVED.

Cllr Mrs MOORE arrived at 7.35pm.

Copies of the job description and the job advertisement were circulated to each councillor for comment and/or amendment. The Deputy Mayor requested that up to £500 be allocated for advertisements in the local press. APPROVED. The Deputy Mayor also called for volunteers to form the interview panel; councillors were asked to notify the Town Clerk.

03/050 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 June 2003 were APPROVED as a complete and accurate record but could not be signed because the Chairman for that meeting was not present. The minutes would be presented for signature at the earliest opportunity, as would those for the May meeting.

03/051 MATTERS ARISING

The Outstanding Actions List dated 17 July 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 had hastened a reply in July 2003.

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 had hastened a reply in July 2003 and had been advised that the matter was under review.

03/037 Correspondence. A verbal reply from Mr O'Connor, the contractor who had carried out the original work, about the central heating system in QES had been received. Mr O'Connor had also spoken to Cllr SURSHAM on the subject and it had been decided to go ahead with his proposals. Mr O'Connor was now trying to obtain the services of an electrician and would advise of proposed dates for commencement.

03/052 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Referring to the e-mail received from Mrs Catmull concerning planning permission for the extension of use of a "mobile" for the Kids' Club at Godmanchester Community Primary School, the Deputy Mayor invited discussion on a number of options. It was pointed out that the mobile being used by the Kids' Club, whilst located in the grounds of the school, was not used as a primary education facility and that as a result Cambridgeshire County Council Local Education Authority was not intending to apply or pay for planning permission on behalf of the Club. Overall it was recognised that the Kids' Club provided a valuable service to many people in the Town and that the Town Council should support it in the most appropriate way. Initially the Town Clerk was to write to CCC to ascertain their reasons for not applying to extend the use of the facility on behalf of the Kids' Club. If CCC was unwilling to underwrite the planning permission, the Town Council would consider an award to the Kids' Club under S137. APPROVED.

The Council reiterated an earlier decision not to register to join the Quality Parish Council Scheme.

The Deputy Mayor invited all councillors to provide comments on "The Cycle of Local Government Elections in England" by 18 August 2003.

The Town Clerk advised the Council that the Baptist Church had not spent all its award under S137 for the purchase of football equipment and had also decided to terminate the Youth Football Project. It was DECIDED that the excess money should be refunded to the Town Council and that serviceable/reusable equipment should be made available to the Town Council for reissue to other groups.

03/053 ACCOUNTS

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk advised those present that the recent changes in the composition of the Town Council necessitated the updating of the certificate of signatures of councillors authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Town Council. The certificate was signed by those present and the Town Clerk undertook to obtain signatures from those councillors who were not present at the meeting.

03/054 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.

Cllrs ASHWORTH, GOFF, KYNOCH and WILSON had attended a seminar on Huntingdonshire's New Plan. There had been a useful debate and it had emerged that the issues that concerned Godmanchester Town Council were in common with those of other parishes and associations. Cllr WILSON advised that he would co-ordinate responses from councillors to the questionnaire entitled "Twenty16".

03/055 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS

Alconbury Airport Consultation/A14 re-alignment. Cllr ASHWORTH reminded those present that there were meetings on the A14 re-alignment to be held on Thursday 24 July and on Thursday 31 July 2003, both in the Town Hall beginning at 7.30pm

Flood Defences. The WP had not been convened since last month and there was nothing to report.

Finance. There had not been a WP meeting and there was nothing to report. The next WP meeting would be on Tuesday 12 August 2003 at 4 Crowhill, beginning at 8.00pm.

Environment. The Chair of the Environment WP was not present but had submitted a written report, which was read out to the meeting. He had met with a representative of the CCC Highways Department to look at proposals for a complete cycle path from The Avenue along Park Lane to the crossing in Cambridge Road by the White Hart Public House. No formal response had been received following the meeting but Cllr NORRIS undertook to keep the council apprised of any development.

An inspection of the four play areas had been carried out in conjunction with the representative from Wickstead. The present condition of the equipment and associated safety hazards were reviewed. There were no major problems and a full report should be forthcoming shortly. Once the report was to hand, Cllr NORRIS indicated that he would call a working party meeting. (Town Clerk's Note: The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 August in conjunction with the Finance WP.)

Cllr NORRIS's report also informed the meeting that he had asked the Town Clerk to invite the Environment Agency to look at the condition of the brick piers supporting the footbridges over the Osiers. Additionally, the Town Clerk had been tasked with hastening action on rectifying the degraded path surface of the Ouse Valley Way leading to the lock. There had been the usual spate of petty vandalism and Country Services had been notified about the Ouse Valley Way sign at the end of East Chadley Lane and the damage to the map display at the entrance to Portholme had been notified to the relevant authorities.

Commenting on the level of vandalism, particularly in the Devana Close play area, it was suggested that the bulb in the lamp standard did not throw out sufficient light to deter the potential vandals. The Town Clerk was to contact CCC, quoting the number on the lamp standard, to see if any improvement could be made. Following discussions it was suggested that the Devana Close residents should report all incidents to the Police and ensure that the Community Beat Manager is also advised. The Town Clerk was to give the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator the mobile phone contact number for the Community Beat Manager.

It was also reported that the grass area at Bridge Place had become an overspill car parking area. The Town Clerk was to report the matter to the relevant enforcement officer at HDC.

Cllr COHEN commented that a new bus shelter had been installed on Cambridge Street. He had understood that there were to be more but wanted to know how many and where they were to be installed. The Town Clerk undertook to confirm the details with the Chair of the Environment WP.

There were many adverse comments about the state of the Chinese Bridge. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had been advised by CCC that a survey would be carried out on Monday 21 July 2003 and the proposed action would be advised to him by the officer responsible for bridges during the coming week.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.58pm to allow questions from the public.

A comment from the one member of the public present was that he thought it would be beneficial if copies of the agenda for the meeting were to be made available for members of the public on the night. This was AGREED.

The meeting resumed at 9.03pm.

Property/Judith's Field. Cllr GOFF reported that the dirt track would be created during the coming weekend and that the floodlights installation should begin the following week.

The mini football pitches had been marked out and prices for goals and nets had been obtained. After some discussion it was DECIDED that goals and nets would not be purchased at this time.

Cemetery. Cllr COHEN reported that the new notice board was in place with the Cemetery Regulations displayed, together with a letter detailing the next round of actions to be taken to complete the "lawning" process.

He advised that he had contacted Cllr COMBEN for advice about the weeds in the Garden of Remembrance and asked the Town Clerk to approach Fergusons, the grounds maintenance contractors, for a quote for the application of a systemic herbicide.

Overall, Cllr COHEN reported that the general overall appearance of the cemetery was beginning to look better. He advised that 2 signs; one prohibiting dogs, other than guide dogs; the other prohibiting cars other than hearses to go beyond the official car park, would soon be displayed at the entrance to the cemetery.

Other Representative Groups/Twinning/Inter Town Forum/Detached Youth Initiative.

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had attended the meeting of the Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association as a formal representative of Godmanchester Town Council. Copies of his report had been e-mailed to all members, with a "hard" copy having been sent to Cllr SURSHAM.

Cllrs Mrs HULL and COHEN had attended the Inter Town Forum at St Ives. It had been an interesting meeting covering a number of topics. The minutes would be made available to

councillors in due course. The next meeting would be held on 9 January 2004, again at St Ives.

Cllr Mrs HULL advised that there was to be a Summer Youth Project, supervised by 2 project workers, that would run for 8 hours a week for 3 weeks, beginning on 11 August 2003. The project would consist of sports and arts based activities.

Cllr Mrs HULL reported that money had been voted by the Community Safety Partnership for the Detached Work Project which had been delayed but eventually had started at Easter. The meeting expressed its concern that there had been no formal progress report on the success or otherwise of the project and it was DECIDED that Cllr Mrs HULL would provide the Town Mayor with a draft letter to be sent to the CSP. The letter would also suggest a follow up meeting.

Cllr VANE PERCY left the meeting at 9.45pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Town Clerk was asked to make another attempt to obtain an estimate from London House Signs for the refurbishment of the roll of honour hanging on the wall of the Town Hall meeting room.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 21 August 2003.

The meeting ended 9.50 pm Deputy Mayor