

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: D BROWN: Town Mayor
Councillors: T CANT, Ms J MacLEOD, A MARTIN, Ms D MIDDLETON, N PAULEY, D TAYLOR, C VANE PERCY, N WELLS, Mrs S WORTHINGTON, G WILSON

Town Clerk: Mrs M LIDDIARD
Mace Bearer: Mr M WILLIAMS

4 members of the public were in attendance

10/43 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR BUTCHER: holiday; CLLR Mrs HULL; absent (apologies received after meeting); CLLR HYAMS: attending HDC meeting; CLLR RICHARDSON: holiday; CLLR WELTON: holiday

10/44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLR PAULEY: Planning matter relating to Almond Road footpath as this relates to his residence; CLLR WILSON: matters arising relating to Environment Agency fishing platform as they are his employer. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: cheque payment in her favour as reimbursement for expenditure on Play Pathfinder items.

10/45 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2010 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

10/46 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

No comments raised.

10/47 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the Town on 8 occasions since the last meeting. One of the events had been to attend the High Sheriffs Award Ceremony and THE MAYOR suggested we make details of the scheme known to the young people in the town through the next Town Council newsletter.

THE MAYOR advised the Town Office had been decorated and he asked that thanks be recorded for CLLR BUTCHER's hard work undertaking this task.

THE MAYOR reminded all that the Annual Litter Pick would take place on Saturday 17th April, that tickets for the Mayor's Charity dinner on 22nd April were available from the Town Office.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR thanked CLLR HYAMS for putting together the latest edition of the Town Council newsletter and to all Cllrs for delivering them.

THE MAYOR reminded everyone that Cllr Professional Development Training was available through CPALC and he would urge Cllrs who have not attended to do so.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reminded Chairs of working parties that they needed to provide a summary of their report to the Town Clerk by 7th April. THE MAYOR advised he would not be standing for re-election to role of Town Mayor for personal reasons, and that nominations were required in the Town Office by 1pm on 7th April.

Chairs of WPs

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR noted that a further update on the Play Pathfinder project would be presented, but he asked Cllrs to support the hard work undertaken in particular by CLLR

TAYLOR and CLLR Ms MIDDLETON, by attending the opening event on Saturday 27th March at 1pm.

All Cllrs

10/48 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:

The updated list of outstanding matters was presented to the Town Council.

10/48.1 Play Pathfinder: CLLR TAYLOR confirmed the installation was underway and due to be complete by the opening day of 27th March. There had been delays in delivery of the matting, but everyone was confident the cargo would arrive in time from India and the matting would be installed prior to the opening ceremony. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON had devised a short quiz for children to complete and had obtained donations of prizes from Crazy Glazy and First Strokes Swimming Club and Bellmans Bakery, for which the Town Council is most grateful. CLLR TAYLOR confirmed that THE MAYOR would be the first to go down the zip wire following the official opening and a representative from Spring Common School would present THE MAYOR with a nesting box to be sited in the area. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON advised there might be last minute purchases to be made in respect of plants etc required to finish the natural features surrounding the Play Pathfinder equipment, and it was AGREED that up to £350 be APPROVED and furthermore that CLLR Ms MIDDLETON would be reimbursed before the date of the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Middleton/
Town Clerk

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON arrived at 7.55pm

10/48.2 Mayoral Purse: CLLR WILSON offered to resolve any queries that might have arisen following the circulation of details of his expenditure of the Mayoral Purse in the financial year 2008-2009. There were no queries.

10/49 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

No reports received, although THE MAYOR confirmed that it was hoped to hold an informal opening ceremony to note the arrival and commissioning of the Chinese Bridge.

Cllr Brown

10/50 CORRESPONDENCE

Mr White had asked the Town Council to reconsider the provision of a cycle path on Post Street. It was AGREED to review the information on file in the first instance.

Planning WP

Town Clerk advised that the Future Jobs Fund Scheme was now operating and Godmanchester Town Council could recruit a part time Clerical Assistant, which would be funded through CPALC, for a 6 month period. It was proposed that the Clerical Assistant, as well as working in the Town Office to assist in general duties, could also assist CLLR WELTON to check, and amend where necessary, the records for the London Road Cemetery. This proposal was AGREED and it was further AGREED that CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON, CLLR WELTON and the Town Clerk would interview candidates as soon as possible.

Cllr Worthington/
Cllr Welton/
Town Clerk

10/51 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS

10/51.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved.

Town Clerk

10/51.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 11th February 2010; a copy of the budget report on the year to date, and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation as verified by THE MAYOR. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON confirmed she had witnessed preparation of the payroll and carried out audit trail checks on receipts and petty cash payments and was very happy with the clarity of the audit trail.

10/51.3 Cllrs were presented with a report on the annual Health and Safety and Risk Assessments carried out for all Town Council buildings and play equipment. Where risks had been identified, action had been taken to remove or reduce the risk. Cllrs were presented with a copy of the Fire Safety Policy for their information. It was AGREED that the Civic Regalia should be revalued following the next Mayoral election in order that the Asset Register be as up to date as possible.

Town Clerk

10/52 TO APPROVE THE COST OF TRAINING

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON, CLLR Ms MIDDLETON and the Town Clerk requested approval to attend a training session on HR and Employment Matters, to be run by CPALC at a cost of £35 per person. This was AGREED.

Town Clerk

10/53 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix C were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

CLLR WELLS confirmed that CCC had written to advise there was insufficient additional information provided to warrant modification of the definitive map, regarding the footpath between Almond Close and Cambridge Road. CLLR WILSON would request clarification on this matter from the Definitive Map Officer.

Cllr Wilson

CLLR WELLS confirmed he would resubmit the Town Council's comments on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan.

Cllr Wells

The Planning Working Party had not concluded discussions regarding access to Judith's Field from Bascraft Way and Roman Way. Further enquiries would be made and the matter discussed again the following month.

Planning WP

10/54 TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS RE 2012

CLLR PAULEY presented a report outlining the background to the 2012 (or 800) committee. The Town Council were asked to adopt the report in principle. This was AGREED. The 800 committee had asked for funds to produce an initial newsletter and quotes had been obtained. It was AGREED that the Town Council would meet the costs of £210 for 3000 copies and it was further AGREED this sum would be drawn from the money currently set aside for 2012. As the cheque would be payable to the committee, it was not the Town Council's decision to select the supplier for the newsletters. CLLR PAULEY abstained from voting on these issues, but would relay the decision to the 800 committee.

Cllr Pauley

10/55 PROPERTY MATTERS

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON presented a report together with recommendations and proposals. Tanner and Hall have submitted a quote in respect of investigative work in the entrance lobby of the QES to try to find the source of the problem with water getting into the building. This quote in the sum of £947 was APPROVED.

Town Clerk

British Gas provide a Homecare agreement for the boiler in the QES and have offered additional cover for plumbing and drains cover at a cost of £5.95 per month. This was APPROVED.

Town Clerk

A quotation to clean the chairs in the QES had been obtained from Home and Dry. A rate of £4 per chair WAS AGREED, with the total sum expected to be no more than £480. The need for a further litter bin to be sited adjacent to the new Play Pathfinder equipment was confirmed. It was AGREED that this could be purchased at a cost of £249 plus carriage and VAT.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON confirmed that a meeting with the PCC would be held to discuss the paperwork received from the Diocese of Ely regarding a faculty to undertake work in the churchyard. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON also proposed that should the Town Council require legal advice that we approach Leeds Day, who provide legal advice to other local Town Councils. This was AGREED.

It was reported that the hand dryers at Judith's Field were in need of adjustment to improve their performance. Town Clerk would investigate whether this was possible.

Town Clerk

MISCELLEANOUS

CLLR PAULEY advised of a disabled resident who was having to leave Godmanchester because of the lack of property modified for disabled living. He suggested the Town Council should bear this in mind when considering planning issues in future.

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON advised that the Youth Club had mentioned the possibility of redecorating the kick wall at Judith's Field with a fresh graffiti design. They would raise the funds themselves and it was AGREED in principle that they could go ahead with this project.

Town Clerk

CLLR TAYLOR asked that congratulations be passed to Godmanchester Cricket Club for their success at the indoor cricket tournament at Lords.

Town Clerk

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 15 APRIL 2010 IN THE TOWN HALL

The meeting ended at 09.40pm

Mayor