

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2010

PRESENT: D BROWN: Town Mayor
Councillors: T CANT, Mrs H HULL; Ms J MacLEOD, Ms D MIDDLETON, N PAULEY, C RICHARDSON, C VANE PERCY, N WELLS, Mrs S WORTHINGTON, A WELTON, G WILSON

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

5 members of the public were in attendance

10/56 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR BUTCHER: holiday; CLLR HYAMS: attending another meeting; CLLR TAYLOR: holiday; CLLR MARTIN: holiday

10/57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLR RICHARDSON: Planning item regarding access to Roman Way from Judith's Field (personal/prejudicial as lives in Roman Way). CLLR WILSON: Correspondence relating to Flood alleviation scheme (personal as EA are his employer). CLLR MRS HULL: Correspondence relating to Flood alleviation Scheme (personal/prejudicial as home could be affected by proposals put forward by EA). CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: Co-option to fill casual Town Councillor vacancy (personal as one candidate is her neighbour).

10/58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2010 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

10/59 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

Stephen Spencer and Alan Hooker attended on behalf of the Community Association and asked THE MAYOR to draw the numbers for the inaugural draw of the 800 club. The winning numbers were confirmed as: 1st: 610; 2nd: 602; 3rd: 093.

10/60 APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF P/T CLERICAL ASSISTANT.

The Town Council were advised that CLLR WELTON, CLLR MRS WORTHINGTON and the Town Clerk had interviewed for the position of P/T Clerical Assistant based in the Town Office for a 6-month period. It was AGREED that the appointment of Mr Jake Savage should be confirmed with effect from Monday 12th April 2010 for a period of 26 weeks.

Town Clerk

10/61 CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL TOWN COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Mrs Joanna Fletcher and Mr Matthew Deacon both addressed the Town Council with a view to filling the casual vacancy. Mr Deacon advised the Council he would be happy to defer his application at this time, so that Mrs Fletcher could fill the current vacancy. The Town Council AGREED to co-opt Mrs Fletcher and Town Clerk would ensure all paperwork was completed.

Town Clerk

10/62 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the Town on 4 occasions since the last meeting.

THE MAYOR reminded all present that the Annual Litter Pick would take place on 17th April, meeting at the Town Hall at 10am.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR was pleased to announce that all tickets had been sold for the Mayor's Civic Dinner, but that those unable to attend, could make a donation towards the Mayor's Charities.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR thanked everyone who had attended the launch and opening ceremony of the Play Pathfinder project at Judith's Field.

THE MAYOR advised the Town Office would be closed on Monday 19th as new flooring was being laid. There could be further disruption during the week as the replacement front doors were also due to be fitted, although a date had not been confirmed.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR was pleased to confirm that CCC had agreed to provide a licence in respect of positioning a flower bed on the grass verge outside the Bridge Place car park. This would remain viable until such time as funds were sourced for provision of the flower bed.

10/63 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:

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

10/63.1 Play Pathfinder: CLLR TAYLOR had provided a report on the final stages of Play Pathfinder to all. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON confirmed there would be a working party to finalise items relating to Play Pathfinder and to move forward with the next stage of Judith's Field Facilities provision. Consideration would also be given to the wording of a letter to the Looker family outlining the Town Council's intentions – for discussion at the working party meeting, which would take place on Monday 19th April at Judith's Field. Letters of thanks had been sent to Bellman's Bakery, Crazy Glazy and First Strokes Swimming Club for their generous donation of a prize for the launch event.

All Cllrs

10/63.2 Cllrs Open Meeting: CLLR PAULEY provided a brief report on the first open meeting held on 10th April. Twenty invitations to local groups in the community had been sent, and 15 members of the public and 6 Councillors had attended. The session was informal and gave those present the opportunity to talk directly to councillors about their concerns. Town Clerk would write to thank those who had attended. A further meeting would be arranged to take place in July.

Town Clerk

10/64 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

CLLR WILSON had spoken to CCC regarding the numbers required to make a significant difference in respect of proposed alterations to a definitive footpath map and had been advised that in an urban area such as Godmanchester, it would require 30-40 people who would be willing to complete forms to show use over many years and possibly attend an enquiry.

In response to his concerns about the apparent lack of S106 monies from the two new big developments in Godmanchester, CLLR WILSON had been in contact with CCC and HDC and received a comprehensive spreadsheet showing the monies that had been collected from previous and current developments. CLLR MIDDLETON and CLLR WILSON will compare this information with previously supplied information and discuss it further at a Finance Working Party.

All Cllrs

CLLR WILSON had deferred a meeting with Highways to discuss outstanding matters for Godmanchester due to the proximity to the elections. This meeting would take place after 6th May. If anyone had any issues they would like to raise, please refer them to him.

CLLR PAULEY advised a resident in Almond Close had paid privately for an entrance protector line to be painted across his driveway. CLLR PAULEY was concerned that this could be done without consultation with neighbouring properties, which might also be affected.

10/65 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS

10/65.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved.

Town Clerk

10/65.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 15th April 2010 and also a copy of the year-end petty cash reconciliation. They also received a copy of the budget report on the year to date, which has been re-designed; a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation as verified by THE MAYOR, and a copy of the year-end bank reconciliation.

Town Clerk

10/65.3 It was AGREED that the Town Clerk could attend a Health, Safety and Risk information seminar on 8th July at a cost of £60 plus VAT.

10/65.4 It was AGREED that the Annual Town Meeting could be advertised at a cost of up to £60 with a notice being placed on the vicarage wall one week before the meeting date.

Town Clerk

10/66 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

The Town Clerk presented the Town Council with a copy of the year-end accounts together with a copy of the Annual Return, which she then explained. It was AGREED that the accounts were duly APPROVED. Town Clerk confirmed they would be available for inspection by the public during May and forwarded to the auditor for 1st June 2010.

10/67 APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENTS OF ASSURANCE IN RESPECT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

The statements of assurance in respect of the end of year audit for the year ending 31 March 2010 were read to those present and all statements were APPROVED.

10/68 CORRESPONDENCE

THE MAYOR confirmed CCC had advised that the Chinese Bridge would be officially opened by the Leader of CCC on 11th June.

Items of correspondence received after the Agenda was issued would be carried forward to the next Town Council meeting on 20th May 2010.

Town Clerk

10/69 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.

Cllr Wells

CLLRWELLS confirmed that a decision had not been reached on the matters relating to the access to Judith's Field from Roman Way, or on the issue of a cycle path on Post Street. These issues would be carried forward to the next Planning working party meeting.

Cllr Hyams/
Town Clerk

10/70 APPROVAL OF CONTENT AND COST OF ANNUAL REPORT

It was AGREED that the draft content of the Annual Report was APPROVED and that the cost of £299 to print 300 was also APPROVED. It was further AGREED that if CLLR HYAMS was unable to produce the pdf version to be sent to the printer in the coming week that a further £100 could be incurred for the printer to carry out this task.

10/71 SELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

THE MAYOR confirmed that one nomination for the role of Town Mayor and one nomination for the role of Deputy Town Mayor had been duly received. Following a vote it was AGREED that CLLR ALAN WELTON would be elected to become Town Mayor in May 2010 and CLLR MRS SUSAN WORTHINGTON would be elected to become Deputy Town Mayor in May 2010.

MISCELLEANOUS

Following discussion regarding the displaced bulbs due to work being carried out on The Avenue, CLLR MRS HULL would liaise with Mrs Stokes regarding the best way forward for replacing them.

Town Clerk

Following discussion on the latest update from the Environment Agency, it was agreed that the Environment Agency would be invited to attend a special Town Council meeting, to be held in the Queen Elizabeth School.

CLLR WILSON wished to register his displeasure at the words used by CLLR HYAMS in his recent "Godmanchester Matters" leaflet which referred in particular to the closure of the toilets. He felt that the words used were a misrepresentation of the Town Council's agreed position. CLLR MRS WORTHINGTON also stated her displeasure. By selective use of material, CLLR HYAMS had, in her view, created a totally misleading impression. She asked that her views be recorded in the minutes. CLLR PAULEY stated in his view what CLLR HYAMS had put in his election material was consistent with the last Town Council newsletter.

All Cllrs

Cllr Brown

A St George's Day Service will be held in St Mary the Virgin on Sunday 25th April at 2.45pm. All were welcome to attend and following the service a presentation would be made to Pat Jones who was retiring from leading a Brownies unit after more than 30 years service to guiding. THE MAYOR would write on behalf of the Town Council to thank her for her dedication.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND WILL BE HELD ON 20 MAY 2010 IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

The meeting ended at 10.35pm

Mayor