

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE**  
**TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2010**

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor  
Councillors: Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor), D BROWN, R BUTCHER, Mrs H HULL, C HYAMS; Ms J MacLEOD, A MARTIN; Ms D MIDDLETON, N PAULEY, D TAYLOR, C VANE PERCY, N WELLS, G WILSON

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

2 members of the public were in attendance

**10/138 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

**ACTION**

CLLR CANT: work commitment; CLLR Mrs FLETCHER: work commitment; CLLR RICHARDSON: ill.

**10/139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

CLLR WILSON: any item relating to Environment Agency as he is an employee of the EA and any items relating to CCC. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: any item relating to Wood Green as friends work at Wood Green.

**10/140 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

CLLR WILSON asked that his comment under item 10/128 of the Minutes for August 2010 "Cllr Wilson said this statement implies there is cross party support to close the toilets in Godmanchester and this is not correct" be removed from the record. This was done and the amendment signed by THE MAYOR and Town Clerk. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

**10/141 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

Mr Williams advised those present he had attended the National Mace Bearer's Convention, which had been attended by Mace Bearers from all over the country. It was very informative and he was pleased that after 9 years service for Godmanchester, he was still picking up new information.

Mr Kynoch urged the Town Council to write to complain to the Waterways Association about the mess our rivers were in. He would provide a copy of his letter of complaint to the Town Council for their information/consideration.

Mr Vane Percy (speaking as a member of the public) said he was staggered by the current work to install new pedestrian traffic lights in Post Street and The Causeway. The new columns were much higher than previous posts and the new control box was causing an obstruction on the pavement. He felt the Town Council had again been ignored as no plans or proposals had been provided for consideration and the installation had gone ahead without any consultation with the Town.

Mr Vane Percy asked that the Town Council make a request for the removal of the commercial advertising on the railings outside the Community Primary School. This has not received any planning permission and has been sited on the railings for a considerable time.

Town Clerk

The Mayor drew the numbers for the 800 club September draw.

**10/142 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

THE MAYOR reminded everyone that the Environment Agency Public Exhibition would take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September. All were encouraged to visit.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR advised a schedule for meetings and Civic Events for 2011 had been prepared. Unless anyone had any queries, this list was considered adopted for the year.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reminded everyone there would be a litter pick on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, all welcome.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR reminded everyone the Annual Civic Service would take place on 17<sup>th</sup> October and he would appreciate the support and attendance of members of the Council at this important event. He also reminded all that tickets were available from the Town Office for the Charity Quiz Night to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR thanked CLLR BROWN for his time and donation of some materials to make temporary repairs in the Queen Elizabeth School.

THE MAYOR confirmed Rashid Mahmood and Kevin Askew had been appointed as Part time caretakers. Keith Walters would continue to assist them for the next couple of weeks while they learnt the duties involved.

THE MAYOR confirmed Jake Savage, who had been employed through the Future Job Funds Initiative would be ending his contract with us on 8<sup>th</sup> October. THE MAYOR formally thanked Jake for his hard work and enthusiasm, and wished him well for the future.

THE MAYOR advised the Town Clerk would be away from the office from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September.

THE MAYOR had represented the Town on 8 occasions since the last meeting, THE DEPUTY MAYOR on 1 occasion, CLLR BUTCHER on 1 occasion, and CLLR HYAMS on 1 occasion.

THE MAYOR was pleased to confirm Godmanchester had been awarded a Silver Gilt certificate in the Anglia in Bloom awards. Formal thanks would be conveyed to Mr Thackray and the GMC in Bloom team.

Town Clerk

#### **10/143 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:**

CLLR WILSON confirmed CCC did not support a full road closure for the morning Remembrance Day Service and they had confirmed 3 short road closures for procession to and from the Town Hall and the 2 minutes silence. We await further information regarding provision of stewards, signage, and whether the traffic can be stopped for the duration of the prayers.

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON had circulated a draft of the next Town Council newsletter. The deadline for any changes was set for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. Delivery would be required at the end of September.

All Cllrs

#### **10/144 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

No report received on District Council matters.

CLLR WILSON had circulated a report, which was noted. He confirmed there was an overspend in the CCC budget of £2.9m predominantly in Children & Young Peoples Services and CCC would be facing making similar savings to those announced by HDC who had already indicated they would have to make cuts in some services.

#### **10/145 CORRESPONDENCE**

CLLR PAULEY advised HDC had provided their comments on the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme for Godmanchester. Also the EA had asked for confirmation that the Town Council would take responsibility for certain parts of the scheme upon completion. It was AGREED that HDC's comments should be noted and that a response to the EA's enquiry could not be provided until a final scheme had been designed and approved. Town Clerk would confirm this with the EA.

Town Clerk

CLLR WILSON advised NALC had confirmed that Employers had stated that any pay increase was unaffordable for Council employees and it was suggested pay scales would not change for the year 2011-2012. CLLR WILSON asked the Town Clerk to seek clarification on the position on awarding an incremental spinal column point in light of this statement.

Town Clerk

CLLR VANE PERCY had received a questionnaire from HDC regarding views on the services provided by the conservation team. He and the Town Clerk would complete and return this questionnaire.

Cllr Vane Percy/  
Town Clerk

### **10/146 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS**

10/146.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved.

Town Clerk

10/146.2 Councillors received a copy of monthly salary information, the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 16<sup>th</sup> September 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 had attended the Town Office to carry out audit checks on receipts, salaries, petty cash and the bank reconciliation. All Cllrs are invited to carry out these checks periodically.

All Cllrs

### **10/147 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 Hyams arrived at 8.35pm**

CLLR VANE PERCY confirmed that following removal of the chestnut tree in the Community School grounds, the tree officer had recommended planting of a London Plane tree. As the stump had not been removed this would not be possible. Town Clerk to advise HDC and ask for confirmation of when the stump would be removed.

Town Clerk

### **10/148 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

10/148.1 CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON provided a report following the recent Finance working party. Following review of the budget, it was confirmed that the income and expenditure as projected in the budget was accurate and there were no changes to be made at this time for the following six months. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON had made recommendations in relation to scoping of the 2011/12 budget in respect of level of reserves held, grants, fees received for hire of QES and Judith's Field and purchase of cemetery plots, allotment charges, and salaries. Some discussion on these issues followed. CLLR PAULEY said he was uncomfortable discussing salary issues with the Town Clerk present and THE MAYOR confirmed she should leave the room.

### **Town Clerk left the room.**

CLLR WILSON advised that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

CLLR WILSON recorded: It was AGREED that the Town Clerk's performance has been satisfactory and therefore the Town Council must follow contractual obligations unless advised by NALC having regard to their employment briefing mentioned earlier. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk's Assistant's performance has also been satisfactory and based on the NALC briefing he would not be eligible to an increase in spinal point, but his letter of appointment needed to be checked to confirm this is correct.

It was resolved that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

### **Town Clerk rejoined the meeting.**

It was proposed that provision for the public toilets should be included in the budget. It was suggested that the level of the Mayoral Purse be reconsidered with a view to reducing the amount and it was further suggested that the Mayor should attend fewer events on behalf of the Town. THE MAYOR declared an interest in this issue. Future level of financial support for Picnic in the Park was also discussed.

The future of the Judith's Field building was considered and it was AGREED to form a working party to consider a way forward. CLLR BROWN AGREED to chair this group and CLLR Ms MACLEOD, CLLR MARTIN, CLLR WILSON and CLLR BUTCHER all offered

to be part of this working party. All Cllrs welcome to be involved.

The next Finance Working Party will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November and all comments, suggestions, and requests for expenditure in the following financial year should be provided at least a week before this meeting. It will be held in the Town Hall and all Cllrs are invited to attend.

All Cllrs/  
Chairs of  
Working parties

10/148.2 CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON submitted a property report and CLLR BROWN confirmed recent actions in respect of investigations into the cause of the raised floor in the QES. He confirmed Dal-Rod had undertaken a recent survey of the drain lines under the QES but had not provided all the information they had been asked for. Town Clerk to request this. CLLR VANE PERCY confirmed a roofing specialist had inspected the roof and had been asked to confirm their findings and recommendations in writing. They had suggested we should remove a section of the floor boards in the small hall of the QES. CLLR BROWN and CLLR VANE PERCY to consider and advise Town Clerk of any action required.

Town Clerk

Cllr Brown/  
Cllr Vane Percy

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON advised we were still waiting for a response from HDC regarding management of the public toilets if the Town Council were in a position to pay the costs. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting with CPALC and one suggestion had been to decrease costs by providing one uni-sex toilet rather than 3.

### **10/149 TOWN SIGN**

CLLR PAULEY advised HDC had commented on the proposed Town Sign and had suggested it was appeared to be more like an information board. They had further commented on the proposed location in relation to EA plans for the area in respect of flood defences, and asked why it should be double sided. CLLR PAULEY confirmed that the team who had put together the design had worked with a specialist in the area of town signs and with a manufacturer of many years standing. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to thank Ms Fitzgerald for her comments and confirm we looked forward to working with HDC, but also to confirm the Town Council supported a double sided sign and also considered the proposed location to be suitable, subject to approval of final designs from the EA.

Town Clerk

### **MISCELLEANOUS**

CLLR BROWN confirmed he was working with HDC to develop the mound at Park Lane.

The Town Clerk advised the Senior Citizens were holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September in the Town Hall. All invited to attend.

All Cllrs

### **THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2010 IN THE TOWN HALL**

**The meeting ended at 10.25pm**

**Mayor**