

## **GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2000**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs LOOKER, Town Mayor  
Councillors D COMBEN, P COVINGTON, Mrs FOSTER, A GOFF, Mrs MOORE, R  
NORRIS, A SURSHAM, Mrs TYLER  
Town Clerk: W D BUTTERWORTH

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Mrs HULL, E KYNOCH, S SPENCER, G WILSON, C VANE  
PERCY

PRESENT: 2 members of the public.

#### **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that she had represented the Town on 4 occasions since the last meeting. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Town at 3 events. The Mayor made special mention of her most enjoyable Twinning visit to Wertheim where she had noted that her opposite number, the Oberburgermeister, controlled a budget of £80M! The young people of Godmanchester & Huntingdon had given a first class account of themselves at the Sportsfest, finishing in third place. Godmanchester & Huntingdon would be the hosts for the 2001 event.

She reminded all Councillors about the formal Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on Sunday, 12 November 2000 and hoped that as many as possible would attend. Robes would be worn. The Council would meet at the Town Hall at 10.30 am before walking in procession to the Memorial.

There was also to be an Evening Service at St Mary's Parish Church starting at 6.30 pm. Cllr NORRIS was acting as the liaison officer for the event. Robes would be worn and the Mayor would be reading the lesson.

The Mayor gave advance notice of the Carol Service on 9 December 2000 on School Hill. Timings would be announced later.

She reported that the last phase of the Millennium bulb-planting project had started on 14/15 October 2000. There would be another session on 21 October. All volunteers to help would be very welcome.

#### **00/075 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2000 were APPROVED and signed as an accurate and complete record.

#### **00/076 MATTERS ARISING**

The Outstanding Actions List dated 18 October 2000 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).  
99/048(2) New Town Guide – in work.

00/056(2) Cycling on footpaths – request for enhanced signage sent on 31 August – reply awaited from HDC.

00/056(4) Damaged verges at Grove Terrace – awaiting a decision from HDC.

00/067 Christmas nativity scene – in work.

### **00/077 CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence listed at [Appendix A](#) not covered by the WP reports was addressed. The following was agreed:

The Council noted that the claim against the Town relating to an alleged accident on the Recreation Ground in May 1999 had still not been resolved.

The Council noted that the Land Registry Certificate for Devana Park had been lodged with Copleys for safekeeping. It was also noted that the Town's bid for the purchase of the East Chadley Lane pasture field had been unsuccessful.

It was DECIDED to accept the offer from the East Anglian Air Ambulance to speak at a Council meeting. However, it was agreed that the best date would be the Town Meeting on 3 April 2001 where members of the public would also be present.

The Council noted the detailed breakdown of expenditure submitted by the Big Top Holiday Club.

### **00/078 ACCOUNTS**

The accounts set out in Appendix B were APPROVED.

The Town Clerk provided an expenditure summary for the first half of the current FY.

The Council APPROVED a grant of £1200 towards the insurance of St Mary's Church.

The Council also APPROVED the sum of £30.00 for the memorial wreath for the Remembrance Day Service.

The Council noted the New Flame recommendations for a new extinguisher and signs. The Council APPROVED the following expenditure:

One 6 litre foam fire extinguisher for the QES small hall at a cost of £65.99

Thirteen photoluminescent signs for QES at a cost of £89.10

Twelve photoluminescent signs for JF at a cost of £76.65

Twelve photoluminescent signs for the Town Hall at a cost of £85.60.

### **00/079 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.

Councillor WILSON had prepared a draft letter to HDC about the proposed erection of floodlights at Bearscroft Lane. The Mayor declared an interest and asked the Deputy Mayor to chair the meeting for this item. The draft, with some amendments to remove the material planning implications relating to light from cars in the car park, was APPROVED and the Town Clerk was to dispatch it to Pathfinder House. The Mayor then resumed the Chair.

Cllr SURSHAM explained that the cheque for £106.25 for the planning application for the wall at the entrance to the cemetery had proved to be too much. HDC had confirmed that the correct bill was £47.50; a refund of the balance would be returned.

### **00/080 WORKING PARTY (WP) REPORTS**

Finance. The WP had met on 2 October 2000. The old Agency Agreement and the new Grounds Maintenance contract had been discussed but further work was required. Cllr Mrs MOORE was preparing the draft precept for 2001/02 and asked all councillors to submit their bids to her by 6 November 2000 at the latest.

The next meeting of the Finance WP would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 8 November 2000 at 4 Crowhill.

Ad Hoc (Gnd Maint). The WP had not met. However, Cllr COMBEN observed that early indications were that the new contract had saved the Town a significant amount of money when compared to the old Agency Agreement.

The meeting considered an offer from Fergusons to clean the War Memorial and carry out work on the adjacent tree but DECIDED that neither was necessary. Work to refurbish the Garden of Rest would be specified at a later date.

It was AGREED that 2 steel litterbins should replace the plastic ones destroyed by vandals on the Recreation Ground. Cllr NORRIS offered to select the locations. [Town Clerk's note: a visit to the site had revealed that 3 new bins would be preferable. Cllr NORRIS would take advice from the WP]

A formal vote of thanks was made to Cllr COMBEN and to ex-Cllr Hollowood for their considerable efforts in bringing the Grounds Maintenance contract to fruition.

Environment. The WP had met on 3 October 2000 and Cllr COMBEN presented a comprehensive written report. In discussion it was AGREED that the Town Council should offer support in principle to FEAR in its campaign to seek an alternative route for the A14 relief road. It was suggested that it might be more appropriate to invite CCC to address the Council and other interested groups on the subject of the "Extensive Urban Survey" at a dedicated meeting. It had originally been planned to have the briefing at a normal Council meeting but that was now considered potentially unsuitable. The Town Clerk was to contact CCC and discover just what was involved in the presentation.

The Council noted Cllr GOFF's offer to carry out a detailed survey of all the street signage in Godmanchester so that a consolidated case could be made for replacements and/or repairs.

Cllr COMBEN estimated that the 2001/02 precept for the Environment WP should be of the order of £9000 plus a further £1500 to continue the program of lifebuoy replacement.

The Town Clerk was to write yet again to HDC to express the Council's disquiet that there was still no progress with the various tree planting and tree maintenance projects.

The appeal against the decision at Monks Pit had entered the final phase and the Town Council had 28 days to comment on the latest statements from Smiths Gore and CCC. Cllrs COMBEN and NORRIS would prepare the response; other Cllrs should contribute if they so wished.

HDC had agreed to supply the Town with 50 trees under the Parish Planting Scheme. It was planned to use the majority of them in the cemetery.

The waste-paper recycling bin at Cow Lane was frequently full when people tried to drop off newspapers. The Town Clerk was to ask HDC to empty it more often. He was also to inquire if the Town was due to receive any recycling credits.

The next meeting of the WP would be at 8 pm on Thursday, 2 November 2000 at 26 Earning Street.

Recreation and Amenities. The Town Clerk reported that 2 estimates had been received for the refurbishment of the play area on the Recreation Ground. The third company had been on site that morning and had promised their bid within 2 weeks. A meeting of the WP would be called to evaluate the bids and prepare the submission to WREN for funding.

The area for the skatepark had been pegged out but no other work had started.

The Mayor encouraged more councillors to attend the Recreation & Amenities WP.

Property. The WP had not met. However, it was noted that the 2001/02 precept bid should include provision for the possible JF refurbishment plans.

The Mayor thanked Cllr SURSHAM for his work in preparing the planning application for the cemetery wall.

Cemetery. Cllr Mrs FOSTER reported that she had now identified the names and addresses of the "owners" of the gravespaces that would need to be restored to lawn status. She would pass the details to the Town Clerk who was then to write to each person concerned.

The matter of where to store the shuttering had still to be resolved. The Town Clerk was to contact the gravedigger.

The Council noted with regret that the new gates and barriers closing off the road outside the cemetery were still not in place despite the promises from CCC. The Town Clerk reported that he had asked HDC to encourage the County to get the work done as soon as possible. HDC were also to be asked to carry out a thorough clean up of the area once the gates were finally installed.

A letter had been received from HDC seeking to carry out a "Best Practice" review of cemetery administration. Cllr Mrs FOSTER would prepare the reply. However, it was likely that HDC would not wish to continue to administer the Godmanchester cemetery and alternative arrangements might have to be made.

The Mayor thanked Cllrs Mrs FOSTER & GOFF for their recent litter pick at the cemetery.

The next meeting of the Cemetery WP would be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 7 November 2000 at 28 Cambridgeshire Villas.

Other Representative Groups.

New JF WP had met on 15 October 2000 at Judith's Field. There had been an excellent turnout of councillors. Cllr GOFF was elected as the Chair.

The next meeting would be at 8 pm on Wednesday, 25 October 2000 at JF.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Mayor asked the Chair of each WP to let the Town Clerk have a list of the WP members by 1 November 2000. She also asked all councillors to give the Town Clerk a list of the committees and other organisations to which they belonged and at which they represented the Town Council.

It was noted that there was a need to reappoint the Town Council Governor for the GMC Primary School.

The Mayor had received a suggestion that standing orders for WPs might be beneficial. It was AGREED that the idea had merit and Cllr COVINGTON offered to investigate what was involved. The matter was to be tabled for discussion on the Agenda for the meeting in November.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2000.**

The meeting ended at 9.39 pm  
Town Mayor