

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16th AUGUST 2012

PRESENT: C VANE PERCY: Town Mayor; D UNDERWOOD: Deputy Mayor;
Councillors: R BUTCHER; M COHEN; Ms L COPPER; R COXHEAD; P GODLEY; Ms L KADIC; Ms J MacLEOD; P MORGAN; N WELLS; A WELTON; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON; Mrs WORTHINGTON

Town Clerk: Mrs M LIDDIARD
Mace Bearer: Mr F CARTER

4 members of the public were in attendance

ACTION

12/111 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

CLLR PAULEY: domestic arrangements; CLLR TAYLOR: holiday

12/112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR WILSON: employee of Environment Agency; CLLR Mrs WILSON: wife of an employee of Environment Agency and member of Tudor Fields residents group; CLLR Ms MACLEOD: Friend's children attend Jack & Jill preschool; CLLR COHEN: member of Tudor Fields residents group.

12/113 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th July 2012 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

12/114 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Members from GRAB (Godmanchester Residents Against Bearscoft) provided a summary of the action they had taken so far. They confirmed they had written to HDC regarding the legality of the planning process and had stated that HDC should take no further action in respect of the Draft Urban Design Framework. GRAB had obtained more than 1500 signatures on a petition which would be presented to HDC at the end of August. They had sought advice from Houghton & Wyton parish, who had experienced a similar situation in respect of a planning application.

12/115 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR advised he had represented the Town on one occasion since the last meeting. THE MAYOR advised he had drawn up a draft outline programme for the visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 13th September. THE MAYOR confirmed the next DMP (Development Management Panel) would take place on 20th August which would confirm the actions from the previous DMP and would not permit further discussion on the Draft Urban Design Framework, or permit ward members to speak.

12/116 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

A report was presented and noted.
12/116.1 would be covered under agenda item 12/119.3.

12/117 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 12/117 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

In respect of the proposed development at Bearscroft Farm:

- It was AGREED that the newsletter to residents from the Town Council providing information on the current position on the proposed development and Draft Urban Design Framework and activity arranged by GRAB, would be distributed.
- CLLR WILSON confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Mr D'Janogly (MP) on 14th September, and members of GRAB would present their case.
- CLLR WILSON confirmed information from Highways had been circulated to all Cllrs and he had raised further questions and requested further information.
- CLLR WILSON had sought confirmation of the date of the next meeting for the Bearscroft working group, without prejudice,
- CLLR WILSON had prepared a draft letter to the Secretary of State which he would circulate to all for comments
- CLLR WILSON would circulate a list of Heads of Terms for consideration and comment by all Cllrs, which would be prepared in the event of the development being given outline planning permission.
- CLLR WILSON advised that a date for determination of the outline planning application had not been confirmed.

All Cllrs

Cllr Wilson/
All Cllrs

12/118 CORRESPONDENCE

CLLR COXHEAD confirmed the CCTV report had been circulated to all Cllrs.

12/119 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

12/119.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 12/119.1 was APPROVED.

12/119.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 19th July 2012, a copy of salary payments, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation as verified by THE MAYOR which were noted.

12/119.3 A report from CLLR COXHEAD on Financial Update and Budget Planning was received and noted. A Finance working party would take place on 23rd August. It was AGREED that an additional full Town Council meeting would be held on Thursday 25th October 2012 to discuss and approve the budget. Town Clerk would update the list of meetings and distribute to all.

Town Clerk

12/119.4 It was AGREED that costs of £921 for replacement of two sound/strobe detectors in the Town Hall was approved. Town Clerk would also investigate alternative solutions before committing to the replacement. It was AGREED that the old wooden noticeboard outside the Town Hall would be removed. It was AGREED not to replace the notice board for the time being.

Town Clerk

Cllr Morgan

12/120 CAMBS HEALTH & WELL BEING STRATEGY

CLLR Mrs WILSON presented a report on Cambs Health & Well Being Strategy. The Town Council had not been approached directly as part of the consultation process. CLLR Mrs WILSON would send a response on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr S Wilson

12/121 STANDARDS REGIME AND CODE OF CONDUCT

CLLR Mrs COPPER presented a report on the new Standards Regime and Code of Conduct. It was AGREED that the Town Council would adopt the policy drawn up by Huntingdonshire District Council without amendment. It was AGREED that all Cllrs would complete a copy of the declarations of interest form which must be submitted to HDC within 28 days from the date of adopting the Code of Conduct. CLLR Mrs COPPER would seek clarification from HDC Democratic Services regarding rules on dispensation to speak on matters on which a majority of Cllrs held an interest.

Town Clerk

All Cllrs

Cllr Copper

12/122 BUSINESS PLANNING

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON presented a report on Business Planning which was received and noted. The recommendation to agree the principles for setting future hire charges for QES and JF, to the opening of discussions with the Friends of QES and Senior Citizens about more formal liaison arrangements were APPROVED.

12/123 JUDITH'S FIELD HEAVY MAINTENANCE

CLLR COXHEAD presented a report which was received and noted. The recommendations as detailed in the report were APPROVED subject to the Town Clerk obtaining 3 quotes for the provision of metal caging for the changing room.

Town Clerk

12/124 JUDITH'S FIELD PLAY FACILITIES

CLLR COHEN presented a report which was received and noted. It was AGREED that CLLR TAYLOR and CLLR COHEN would investigate possible improvements to the bmx track and investigate costs relating to floodlighting the MUGA, skate park resurfacing, resurfacing the small play area. A further report would be submitted once costs had been obtained.

CLlr Taylor/
CLlr Cohen

12/125 STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

CLLR COXHEAD presented a report which was received and noted. The recommendations made were APPROVED.

12/126 TWINNING

CLLR UNDERWOOD presented a report which was received and noted. The recommendations made were APPROVED.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: To resolve 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 remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

The Mace Bearer left the meeting

12/127 PERSONNEL

A report on Personnel was received and noted.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC. To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

The Mace Bearer re-joined the meeting.

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 20th SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE TOWN HALL

The meeting ended at 10.15pm

Mayor

Full copies of reports mentioned in the text above may be viewed in the Town Office.