

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: D UNDERWOOD: Town Mayor;
Councillors: P MORGAN (Deputy Mayor) M COHEN; Mrs S CONBOY; Mrs L COPPER; R COXHEAD; P
GODLEY; P MALLEY; N PAULEY; D TAYLOR; C VANE PERCY; N WELLS; G WILSON; Mrs S
WILSON; Mrs S WORTHINGTON

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

8 members of the public were in attendance

ACTION

14/137 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

CLLR MACLEOD: unwell; CLLR McINNES: holiday

14/138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR MALLEY in respect of 2 planning applications: 1 The Close and 23 West Street

14/139 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2014 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

14/140 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr Wilson from Sustrans National Cycle Network addressed the Council and said he was interested to hear about the proposals for the Bearscoft development in respect of safe walking and cycling routes which would link the old and new communities.

The monthly draw for the 800 club took place.

14/141 PROPOSED CHANGE TO LEVEL CROSSING: OFFORDS

Mr Adrian Hames, Senior Manager WSP Network Rail addressed the Town Council to outline the proposals for changes at the level crossing at the Offords. The timescale was explained and Mr Hames explained the Town Council would have the opportunity to comment formally on the proposals during the next formal consultation period. Mr Hames advised he would be happy to attend a further Town Council meeting when the proposals had been developed in more detail.

14/142 BEARSCROFT DEVELOPMENT

THE MAYOR welcomed Mr Lusty from Savills, and Mr Armstrong representing David Wilson Homes. Mr Lusty explained that Savills were providing a planning consultancy service for David Wilson Homes who had acquired the site and would be delivering the 753 houses approved in the outline planning permission granted in March 2014.

Mr Armstrong confirmed that David Wilson Homes (DWH) were working on the design code for the scheme which included reserve matters for enabling the development and the structure of the project. It was hoped this would be delivered to HDC within the next couple of weeks. The design code would identify proposed materials for construction, heights and densities as well as green spaces, sports pitches a primary school and shop and it was their aim to deliver a quality scheme for the area.

Mr Armstrong advised the outline planning permission had set the location of the A1198 and also the requirement that the speed limit would be reduced from 60mph to 30mph through traffic regulation orders together with reductions in road width, provision of toucan crossings and installation of interactive speed signs.

Mr Armstrong confirmed that the first work would be to build the internal road and houses would be built off the road with work on the first phase beginning in Spring 2015. DWH proposed handing over the site for the school to be built by September 2015 this would remain in the ownership of Marchfield and another contractor would build the school. It was confirmed that the school would be a 1.5 form entry but would be built to have capacity to be a 2 form entry.

Mr Armstrong reported that 35% (264 properties) of the 753 houses to be built would be affordable housing. The units would all be built with the same materials and integrated with the other housing stock on the development. It was not known who would manage the affordable housing but it was anticipated that of the 264 properties, 70% would be rented and 30% would be shared ownership. The Town Council and David Wilson Homes would have no input as to who these units were allocated to. DWH would be working alongside Barratts to provide a variety of house types and sizes from 1 bed to 5 bed.

Mr Armstrong confirmed funds had been set aside for provision of a bus service but there were no details of routes or service. Funds had also been allocated towards provision of health service but this would be managed by Marchfield who retained ownership of the site reserved for a possible new Doctors surgery. Mr Armstrong was advised that the existing surgery in Godmanchester would be unable to take on the quantity of new patients envisaged and the provision of a new health centre was extremely important.

The Town Council raised questions on the following issues:

- Location and safety of crossings,
- Access for lorries into the new industrial/commercial area on the site
- Provision of single storey dwellings
- Parking facilities and widths of road to allow for on-road parking
- Details of phasing and how affordable units would be integrated with other housing stock
- Confirmation that the roads would be designed to accommodate a bus route
- More information was needed on pedestrian crossings, cycle paths, and links through existing roads
- Preservation of existing hedgerows and a commitment to replant where necessary
- Improvements to the A1198 and the responsibility to protect the community
- Timing and location of development of the commercial units
- Details of the design styles
- Health Centre provision
- Traffic monitoring and when will it be undertaken
- Communicating with the Town Council and public via newsletters and an open exhibition

Mr Armstrong had covered some of the answers to these matters already and agreed to provide further information on those issues he could not respond to immediately. Many of the details would be laid out in the design code and he confirmed the commercial areas together with the school site, and shop site remained in the ownership and responsibility of Marchfield.

14/143 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the Town on 3 occasions since the last meeting. THE MAYOR advised the Town Clerk would be on holiday from 20 September to 5 October. THE MAYOR advised Cllrs that the dates for meetings and Civic events in 2015 had been issued. Cllrs were asked to note the key events in 2015 and avoid double booking these

dates.

THE MAYOR reminded all that the Annual Civic Service would take place on 12 October at 11am. An RSVP was required as soon as possible.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR confirmed he and the Mayoress had completed their sponsored walk from Godmanchester to Syresham in Northamptonshire a total of 90 miles. He had been delighted to be met by the Chairman, Clerk and two Cllrs of Syresham. THE MAYOR thanked all those who had supported this fund raising venture either by providing transport or through donations and sponsorship. All the money raised would go towards the Mayor's charities.

14/144 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk presented a report which was received and noted.

CLLR VANE PERCY confirmed he would be arranging a meeting with all interested parties to discuss progress on provision of an amphitheatre of trees.

Cllr Vane Percy

CLLR COXHEAD asked for an update on progress on registration of Town Council land. The Town Clerk would circulate information to all.

Town Clerk

CLLR G WILSON confirmed no further progress had been made in our request to have the DSLAM cabinet moved. It was AGREED CLLR G WILSON would escalate the matter through our MP.

Cllr G Wilson

No further progress had been made in achieving the repairs need to the Queens Walk footpath. It was AGREED that the Environment Portfolio team would meet to discuss a way forward.

Environment
Portfolio

14/145 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 14/145 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

It was noted that CLLR PAULEY opposed the vote for approval in respect of application 1401488FUL for 42 West Street.

CLLR S WILSON confirmed that individual responses were needed in respect of the consultation from CCC on their business plan. CLLR S WILSON would draft a response to be sent on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr S Wilson

14/146 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence was noted.

14/147 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

14/147.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 14/147.1 was APPROVED

14/147.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 18 September 2014 a copy of salary payments, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation, approved by the Deputy Mayor.

14/148 INVESTMENT BANKING

CLLR WILSON presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED that

- The NatWest account would be closed and all funds transferred to the HSBC account: CLLR TAYLOR and CLLR WORTHINGTON to sign authorisation

Cllr Taylor
Cllr Worthington

- The Town Clerk was instructed to open a 95 day notice account with Cambridge & Counties bank with immediate effect by depositing £120k. CLLRS G WILSON; C VANE PERCY; D TAYLOR and N PAULEY would be authorised signatories to the account and would sign the application form prepared by the Town Clerk
- The Town Clerk was instructed to open a 1 year fixed term account with Nationwide, by depositing £85k. CLLRS M COHEN; R COXHEAD; D UNDERWOOD; S WORTHINGTON would be authorised signatories to the account and would sign the application form prepared by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk would be listed as an authorised signatory for administration purposes only.
- The remaining funds would be reviewed in January 2015 but would remain in the HSBC Business Money Manager Account and HSBC Current account to be used for the general expenses incurred by the Town Council.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk

14/149 SCRUBLAND

CLLR TAYLOR presented a report which was noted.

It was AGREED that Fergusons quote of £1800 be accepted in respect of grass seeding the area previously treated with herbicide. This cost would come from the Environment budget.

Town Clerk

It was AGREED that up to £1k from the Health & Safety budget would be spent on repairing the fencing alongside the A1198 but work would be deferred subject to further information being presented to the Town Council on costs to provide a fence between Judith's Field and the commercial area associated with the Bearscroft development. The Environment portfolio group would obtain costs.

Environment
Portfolio

14/150 GODMANCHESTER TRAFFIC/PARKING

CLLR PAULEY presented a report which was noted. It was AGREED there was a need for further discussion and consultation with residents. Cllrs were asked to pass their views to the Business Portfolio Group. It was also noted that this strategy would become part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

All Cllrs/
Business
Portfolio

14/151 CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES

CLLR PAULEY presented a report which was noted. With only a couple of minor amendments it was AGREED that the proposed response would be submitted.

Cllr Pauley

14/152 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

CLLR COXHEAD presented a report which was noted. Following discussion it was AGREED that future newsletters would focus on a key issue but that some flexibility would remain so other important items would not be ignored.

Business
Portfolio

14/153 TOURISM

CLLR COXHEAD presented a report which was noted.

It was AGREED that the Business Portfolio Group would set up a steering group and it was AGREED that a request for a budget allocation would be made for 2015/16. CLLR COXHEAD confirmed this initiative would not impact on staff at all.

Business
Portfolio

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2014 IN THE TOWN HALL

The meeting ended at 09.50pm

Mayor

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