

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE  
QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL HALL AT 19.00 ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021**

PRESENT: C THOMAS (Town Mayor)  
Councillors: C HYAMS (Deputy Mayor); Mrs S CONBOY; A HOOKER; J HLADKIWSKYJ; P IRVING; P MORGAN; Mrs M RADFORD; P ROUND; G WILSON; Mrs S WILSON; Mrs S WORTHINGTON and J YOUNG

Minute Taker: Mrs C WHITLOCK

There were no members of the public in attendance

**MINUTES**

**Action**

**21/121 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr D Mickelburgh – apologies received (leave)  
Cllr R Taplin – apologies received (other commitment)  
Cllr C Vane Percy- apologies received (leave)  
Town Clerk – apologies received (leave)  
Mace Bearer – apologies received (leave)  
Cllr R Mahmood – no reason

**21/122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr CONBOY declared an interest in planning application 21/01578/HHFUL (73 Comben Drive) and intended to abstain from discussion and voting on this issue.

**21/123 MINUTES:**

The MAYOR advised that comments had been made with regards to the recording of minutes. If they so wished, the Business Group could submit a paper for discussion at the next Town Council meeting.

Business  
Group

Referring to the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Cllr YOUNG advised that the bin collection timetable for Roman's Edge (item 21/113, page 3) was not clear. Clarification would need to be sought from the TOWN CLERK and subsequently the minutes would be updated. Cllr G WILSON requested, under the same item, that the word 'field' should be replaced with 'arrangements'. He also advised that Cllr Round had '*drafted a response*' to the Cycling and Walking Strategy consultation and not a '*bid*'. Once the amendments had been made, the MAYOR confirmed he would sign them off.

Town Clerk

The MAYOR proposed the Council approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 31st July 2021, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

**21/124 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The MAYOR confirmed that, on behalf of the Council, he had opened the Godmanchester Museum's (formerly the Porch Museum) A14 millstone presentation event and had also been interviewed by Huntingdon Community Radio (HCR). The MAYOR reminded Councillors of the Grand Garage and Boot Sales taking place on Saturday (21<sup>st</sup> August) and thanked those who had been

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Date:

involved in the preparation and those planning on supporting the events on the day. The MAYOR advised which roles the Councillors would be taking on during the day.

The MAYOR advised that the Council's Mace Bearer, Martin Williams had held the voluntary position for 20 years this month. The milestone would be marked at the meeting in September when Martin would be present.

Town Office

The MAYOR confirmed that Julie Royle, Administration Officer would be retiring from the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

**21/125 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

None.

The MAYOR carried out the Club 800 Draw.

**21/126 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS:**

The MAYOR invited the Councillors to highlight any outstanding matters but none were raised.

**21/127 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The MAYOR invited the Councillors to highlight any matters but none were raised.

**21/128 PLANNING REPORT:**

The TOWN CLERK would advise HDC of planning application recommendations on her return to the office.

Town Clerk

The DEPUTY MAYOR, as Chair of the planning Group, advised that the Group had discussed planning application 21/01578/HHFUL - 73 Comben Drive. The recommendation was to refuse the application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the plot. Cllr Hyams proposed that Council should refuse the planning application. Cllr G WILSON seconded the proposal, the majority were in favour (one abstention) and it was so **resolved**.

Cllr Hyams outlined that the pros and cons of forming a Planning Committee and advised that a recommendation on the issue was to be deferred whilst a new 'high speed' method of dealing with planning reports at Town Council meetings was trialed.

Cllr G WILSON and Councillors discussed the options for a bid proposal and agreed to publish the application under the Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Initiative 2022/23 to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in the town.

Under Traffic Matters, Cllr Hyams thanked Cllr S WILSON for her work on the bus stops at Roman's Edge and to Cllr G WILSON for his flood related work and the additional work he would be doing. Cllr WORTHINGTON confirmed that she would provide Cllr S WILSON with a background paper regarding real time bus stops.

Cllr MORGAN reported that one of the two bus stops erected on Roman's Edge

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was not in keeping with the others in the town. Cllr G WILSON reported that Roman's Edge would eventually have three bus stops. Cllr S WILSON queried if S106 funds were sufficient to allow for the bus stop areas to be tarmacked. It was suggested that perhaps the existing electronic bus stop at London Road (approaching Roman's Way Industrial Site) could be repositioned as it was not being used regularly. The MAYOR suggested that ongoing concerns concerning bus stops be raised initially outside the current meeting with the Planning Group.

Cllr  
Worthington

Cllr WORTHINGTON suggested it would be useful to see what the previous objections had been when the Council attempted a 20mph speed limit in the past. Cllr CONBOY recalled that the Council were previously advised by Highways that as the town had cars exceeding 30mph there would be no chance of reducing the speed down to 20mph, and, therefore, meeting the requirements for a 20mph limit application. The MAYOR suggested that previous correspondence should be provided to the Planning Group.

Cllr  
Worthington

Town Clerk

#### **21/129 PROPERTY REPORT:**

Cllr RADFORD advised that there had been a number of incidents of vandalism to and around the rear entrance to Judith's Field Pavilion. The Property Group had discussed various preventative measures and had decided that the most aesthetically pleasing option would be to align the existing wall with the external bulk head of the building. An indicative cost of £4,500.00 has been received for the possible alterations. Cllr RADFORD proposed that Council agreed, in principle, to the Property Group obtaining three quotes in order to further the work. Cllr MORGAN seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

Cllr RADFORD reminded the Council that Clark and Kent (C&K) had been appointed as contractors for the Multi Wheel Fun Track project which was due to commence work on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Radford proposed that the Council should not instruct a Project Manager/Quantity Surveyor (PM/QS) to manage the contract on the Council's behalf. Cllr RADFORD had made a number of investigations into C&K's previous contracts and C&K had advised that a PM/QS would not be required. This **was not** the majority opinion of the Property Group. The Council raised concerns over safeguarding their interests, it was public money being used to fund the project, and the TOWN CLERK had previously expressed a view that she would be in favour of the appointment. If quotes for a PM/QS were requested, details of how many site visits would take place would need to be stipulated. Cllr RADFORD proposed that Council agreed that a PM/QS would not be required for the project. Cllr IRVING seconded the proposal, The majority voted against the proposal (10 against, 1 for) therefore the **motion was defeated**.

Town Clerk

Cllr RADFORD noted that the Senior Citizens would be meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August to make a decision on the future of the Club.

#### **21/130 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS:**

The list of payments would be emailed to Cllrs CONBOY and WORTHINGTON for approval and authorisation.

Cllrs Radford  
and  
Worthington

The DEPUTY MAYOR queried why the Council had so much money in one bank.

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The MAYOR suggested that this be raised that with the Business Group.

**21/131 BUSINESS REPORT:**

Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ reported that the Council had not received any updates from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) regarding the ownership of the Rec.

Godmanchester in Bloom (GMCiB) had been awarded a grant to purchase bulbs and had been asked to advise where they would be planted within the Town. Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ explained that the donation of bulbs takes little time for the Nursery, but growing seedlings requires both staff time and would take up space that could be used for other stock. Ordering pre-grown plants via the Nursery may be most appropriate. Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ proposed that Council agreed that GMCiB may purchase plants (instead of bulbs) from the Nursery and to provide a detailed list of what had been purchased and where. There was a suggestion that perhaps it would be nice to have the red, white and blue theme being the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. Cllr ROUND seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

Cllr HLADKIWSKYJ confirmed that the Council's Halls would be available for hire from 1 September 2021. Cllr WORTHINGTON advised that the TOWN CLERK had confirmed that this was in her remit with regards to staffing.

Cllr CONBOY referred to her paper on this year's Christmas Event. A return to a more traditional, community focused event with local businesses and groups was planned and would take place on the first Friday of December. It would include a lights switch on and a market. Council were asked to note that there was a budget, it would be community focused and if given the go ahead, preparation work will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Any profit would go to the Mayor's Charity. Cllr WORTHINGTON seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

**21/132 ENVIRONMENT REPORT:**

Cllr HOOKER explained that the Toddler Play Equipment had been previously approved for installation at Judith's Field at a maximum cost of £31,455 plus VAT. However, the project required a couple of minor changes (reduction in trampoline size, the addition of a crumbed area under the entrance gates and carousel) this would increase the cost to £31,549.90 plus VAT (approx. an increase of £100). Cllr HOOKER proposed that the Council approved HAGS to deliver and install the equipment according to the revised drawings at the cost of £31,549.90. Cllr IRVING seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**

Cllr HOOKER advised that the Property Group had approached the Environment Group to look into the potential of enlarging and improving the car parking at Judith's Field. This would involve research, drawings and then if approved, quotes for the work. Cllr HOOKER therefore proposed Council approve the progression of research into the improvement of the car parking facilities at Judith's Field. Cllr MORGAN seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**. Budgets would be looked at if the proposals were approved.

Cllr HOOKER advised that both ROSPA and Cllr MORGAN had reported the lack of

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height guidance for using the adult play equipment at Queens Walk. There was a mixed response by Council as to whether the addition of a height gauge would be adhered to. However, it was agreed that having some sort of signage (preferably something that would be attractive to children) was required. Cllr HOOKER proposed that Council approved further research into the requirements highlighted in ROSPA's report. Cllr MORGAN seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**

**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.**

**21/133 PERSONNEL REPORT:**

Cllr WORTHINGTON advised that the TOWN CLERK had identified two courses both run by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy). The TOWN CLERK would benefit from the training in light of the civic spending over the next few years. Due to a shortfall in the training budget, Cllr WORTHINGTON asked Council to agree to transferring £1,500 from the underspent HR legal budget to enable the TOWN CLERK to attend both courses. Cllr CONBOY seconded the proposal, all were in favour and it was so **resolved**.

Town Clerk

Cllr WORTHINGTON confirmed that there had been one applicant for the Deputy Clerk position, who would be interviewed, interest in the Admin Assistant and the position of Town Warden had been offered. The next Personnel Committee meeting was on Tuesday (24<sup>th</sup> August) at 7.30pm.

**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 meeting closed at 20.09

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(Mayor)