

**GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE**  
**TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2010**

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor  
Councillors: D BROWN, Mrs J FLETCHER, C HYAMS, Ms J MacLEOD, A MARTIN; Ms D MIDDLETON, N PAULEY, C RICHARDSON, G WILSON

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

4 members of the public were in attendance

**ACTION**

**10/180 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

CLLR BUTCHER: holiday; CLLR Mrs HULL: illness; CLLR TAYLOR: prior engagement; CLLR VANE PERCY: prior engagement; CLLR WELLS: holiday; CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON: holiday.

**10/181 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

CLLR WILSON: he is an employee of the Environment Agency; is married to one of the candidates for the casual vacancy for Town Councillor. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: items relating to Wood Green as a friend works there. CLLR HYAMS: item relating to provision of grit bin in Bluegate as he lives in Bluegate; items relating to HDC as he is a cabinet member. CLLR Mrs FLETCHER: parking in Granary Close as she lives in Granary Close.

**10/182 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record. The Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record. The Town Clerk was congratulated on the excellent record of the extra ordinary meeting with the Environment Agency.

**10/183 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

Mr Thackray provided an update of the work carried out this year by Godmanchester in Bloom. He thanked the Town Council for their support particularly for funding provision of the hanging baskets until 2013. Mr Thackray advised on the many areas GMCiB had been involved, such as on-going liaison with schools, Muir Group, Luminus, HDC, current and past planting of bulbs, the success of the open gardens this summer together with our first scarecrow competition. He outlined plans to plant further daffodils and bluebells, to look again at the mound at East Chadley Lane and he asked the Town Council to consider the possibility of a wild area, which could be achieved by leaving a strip of grass uncut to encourage longer grass which would attract insects butterflies and bees. If this could be accommodated either at Judith's Field or perhaps Buttermel, GMCiB would ensure the area was kept tidy. This request would be put to CLLR BUTCHER who held the portfolio for the Environment and discussed at the January Town Council meeting.

Cllr Butcher

**Cllr Ms Middleton arrived at 7.37pm.**  
**Cllr Mrs Fletcher arrived at 7.45pm.**

Mr Cohen addressed the Town Council on 3 matters: He confirmed a shed would be installed at the Park Lane Nursery which would be used as an observation hut for a hive of bees. Help was needed to dig a hole to lay the foundation for the shed.

Mr Cohen was concerned that a number of cars were parking outside St Anne's School at the start and end of the school day. These vehicles were causing problems as visibility

was reduced. This problem was also being experienced outside the Community Primary School.

Mr Cohen made the Town Council aware of a reduction of funding from HDC and CCC made available to voluntary organisations in the coming financial year. He asked the Town Council to support these organisations wherever possible.

### **10/184 CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR**

**Cllr Wilson (having expressed an interest) left the room.**

Mrs Sarah Wilson and Mr Roger Coxhead both addressed the Town Council with a view to filling the current casual vacancy. The Town Council AGREED to co-opt Mrs Wilson and the Town Clerk would ensure all paperwork was completed.

Town Clerk

**Cllr Wilson re-joined the meeting.**

### **10/185 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

THE MAYOR confirmed there had been an excellent turnout for the switch on of lights and Carols the night before. He thanked David Roffe, Town Clerk's Assistant, for his invaluable help on the night and those Cllrs who had attended. Thanks had also been relayed to all involved.

THE MAYOR confirmed days off to be taken by Town Clerk and Town Clerk's Assistant. The Town Office would be open as usual from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

THE MAYOR confirmed the Mayoress had held a separate charity function to raise funds for the Guiding and Scouting groups in Godmanchester and was pleased to confirm that £480 had been raised.

THE MAYOR reminded all that the Mayor's Charity Ball would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> March and donations of raffle prizes would be most welcome.

THE MAYOR confirmed the Coop would be holding a skating evening on School Hill on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 4pm.

THE MAYOR advised that since the last Town Council meeting, he had represented the town on 6 occasions.

THE MAYOR confirmed that the Civic Regalia had been re-valued and had increased in value since the last valuation in 2008 by 21.5%.

THE MAYOR suggested a further extra-ordinary meeting would be required to consider the 9 listed building consent planning applications in respect of the proposed flood alleviation scheme. Town Clerk would liaise and advise of date.

Town Clerk/  
All Cllrs

THE MAYOR asked that as the Town Council had established a working practice of the presentation of written reports on agenda items, prior to the Town Council meetings, all Cllrs continue to present reports in advance of the meetings. THE MAYOR also asked that when an email required a response Cllrs have the courtesy to send a response.

All Cllrs

It was AGREED that CLLR HYAMS would organise a working party to discuss communication/email issues which would then be discussed at a future Town Council meeting.

Cllr Hyams

### **10/186 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:**

Parking concerns in Granary Close: PCSOs had been monitoring the situation, CCC had replied advising there was nothing they could do.

Judith's Field Building redevelopment: First working meeting arranged for 16<sup>th</sup>

All Cllrs

December. All Cllrs invited to take part.

Ownership of boundary wall between non-conformist burial ground and Community Primary School: CCC had confirmed, in writing, that the wall was their responsibility. Town Clerk would liaise with CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON to write to Trustees of non-conformist burial ground with a view to the Town Council taking on responsibility for this area.

Cllr Worthington/  
Town Clerk

### **10/187 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

CLLR WILSON confirmed he and the Town Clerk had met with the Locality Manager responsible for Youth Services in Godmanchester. The GMC Youth Club had been closed in December and from January an outreach programme would be put into operation. As the Town Council had put aside £5k in the next financial year to support provision of Youth Services, the Locality Manager would come back to the Town Council with some ideas at a future Town Council meeting. CLLR WILSON had suggested an article in the next Town Council newsletter to publicise what was being proposed.

CLLR WILSON advised CCC gritting routes had been confirmed (details on CCC website). Generally pavements would not be gritted although cycle routes would be. He was advised that bus routes such as the Crowhill/Sweetings Road loop and Tudor Road were not being treated and he AGREED to ensure these roads were included on future gritting rounds.

Cllr Wilson

CLLR HYAMS confirmed HDC were not passing any further services back to parishes in the coming financial year, but were looking at what could be passed back to town and parish councils in future.

CLLR HYAMS confirmed that HDC were looking at ways to slim down the CCTV provision. HDC was talking to other authorities in the first instance and it was not suggested cutting the service completely.

### **10/188 PROVISION OF GRIT BINS**

Residents in Bluegate had asked again for provision of a grit bin as the junction of Crowhill with Bluegate became dangerous when icy. Last year the Town Council had agreed that additional grit bins would be purchased for siting in areas to benefit the pedestrians in the town, particularly on routes to schools and doctors surgery. The Town Council was aware that there could be several other streets which could be considered dangerous and therefore provision of one grit bin for Bluegate could lead to several additional requests. It was therefore AGREED that not to provide a grit bin in this location but that CCC are asked again to ensure the bus route was gritted to prevent the junction becoming dangerous.

Town Clerk

### **10/189 CORRESPONDENCE**

EA had asked for confirmation from the Town Council that they would, in principle, take responsibility for maintenance of areas on Town Council land following installation of the proposed flood alleviation scheme. This was AGREED in principle, although more detail was needed before a formal agreement to maintain areas could be made.

Town Clerk

### **10/190 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS**

10/190.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved.

10/190.2 Councillors received a copy of monthly salary information, the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 9<sup>th</sup> December 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.

10/190.3 It was AGREED that up to £1200 could be spent on costs of repainting play equipment in the enclosed play area at Judith's Field.

Town Clerk

## **10/191 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.

CLLR WILSON mentioned the HDC Development Management Panel which would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> December when the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Godmanchester would be discussed. He suggested the Town Council should be represented. Town Clerk would liaise with CLLR WELLS.

Town Clerk/  
Cllr Wells

## **10/192 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

CLLR BROWN advised he had met with representatives from HDC to make further progress on understanding the structure and pipework at the QES to determine how water might be getting into the building. Dal-Rod would be contacted with a view to further clarification being provided on the report they had submitted. If satisfied with the additional information, it was AGREED that CLLR BROWN could pass this invoice for payment and Town Clerk would arrange for 2 Cllrs to sign the cheque.

Cllr Brown  
Town Clerk

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON apologised for not circulating the Judith's Field Facilities working party report before the meeting. She explained the preparation work undertaken by the working party and the location of the proposed installation. It was proposed that the Town Council should invite companies to tender for the provision of a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area). As Cllrs had not had the opportunity to read the document in detail, it was AGREED that all Cllrs would forward their comments on the document to CLLR Ms MIDDLETON so that a final tender document could be drawn up.

All Cllrs/  
Cllr Middleton

## **MISCELLEANOUS**

CLLR MARTIN confirmed the issue of moorings in Godmanchester was an on-going issue and he was still gathering information.

Town Clerk

CLLR BROWN expressed his concern about the condition of the sundial on the QES which was in danger of falling. Town Clerk would hasten.

Cllr Fletcher/  
Town Clerk

A Personnel working party meeting was needed. CLLR Mrs FLETCHER would liaise with Town Clerk to set up a suitable time either late January or early February.

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AN EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL.**

**The meeting ended at 10.07pm**

**Mayor**