

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2011

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor
Councillors: D BROWN, R BUTCHER, Mrs H HULL, Ms J MacLEOD, A MARTIN; Ms D MIDDLETON, N PAULEY, C RICHARDSON, D TAYLOR, N WELLS, G WILSON, Mrs S WILSON,

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

8 members of the public were in attendance

ACTION

11/001 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

CLLR Mrs J FLETCHER: unwell; CLLR C HYAMS: attending HDC cabinet meeting; CLLR C VANE PERCY: prior engagement; CLLR Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor): prior engagement.

11/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLR Mrs S WILSON: member of GMCiB and personal interest in EA matters as her husband works for EA. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: planning matters relating to Wood Green (personal friend employed by Wood Green) and Corpus Christi Lane (home address). CLLR G WILSON: matters relating to EA as he is employed by EA.

11/003 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2011 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

11/004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

Mr Thackray addressed the Town Council in support of the GMC in Bloom request to provide a wild flower meadow in Godmanchester and request to start planting trees to form a town orchard.

Mrs D'Agnello addressed the Town Council on behalf of Jack and Jill nursery who use the Judith's Field building in the mornings during term time. They are required to have a lease or rental agreement and have asked the Town Council to agree to this request. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON, through the Town Clerk, had responded to say the Town Council was able to support the request for a rental agreement in principle. Mrs D'Agnello would provide further information to the Town Clerk in order to progress this request.

Mr Cohen addressed the Town Council regarding the dreadful state of the grassed area at Betts Close which was being used as a parking area. He asked that the Town Council liaise with Highways to improve the state of this area. CLLR WILSON advised he had received correspondence via the Town Clerk on this matter and he would look into it further.

THE MAYOR drew the numbers for the 800 club monthly draw.

11/005 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR advised that following an fund raising event, held by the Mayoress, in

support of the uniformed Scouting and Guiding groups in Godmanchester, cheques totalling £500 had been presented to the leaders of the groups.

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the Town on 5 occasions since the last meeting, and the Deputy Mayor on one occasion.

THE MAYOR reminded everyone that invitations had been sent to attend the Charity Ball to be held on 25th March at Wood Green. Tickets are available from the town office, who would also be happy to take donations of raffle prizes for the event.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR advised he would be on holiday for a week.

11/006 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:

An updated schedule of outstanding matters was presented to the Town Council.

11/006.1 GMC Community Association had been advised that they would be entitled to 6 free periods of hire during 2011 but that any additional bookings would be charged at the normal rate. The chairman, Mr Spencer, had booked a meeting each month for the 800 committee in the Queen Elizabeth School and had asked that all 12 meetings be held free of charge. It was AGREED that one meeting a month during 2011 for the 800 committee meetings would not be charged for, but in order not to clash with regular hirers, Mr Spencer would be asked to liaise with the Town Office to find suitable times and dates.

Town Clerk

11/007 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

No report received on District Council matters.

Report received from CLLR WILSON on County Council matters was noted. As a result of the report, Town Clerk would write to CCC regarding inadequate supply of grit for grit bins which was not satisfactory as 2 of our grit bins had been empty for the past month.

Town Clerk

CLLR PAULEY reminded Cllrs that supporting papers and reports should be sent to all Cllrs allowing sufficient time to read before the Town Council meeting. Too many reports were being sent at the last minutes, despite reminders sent by the Town Clerk. All Cllrs were asked to note this request and provide documents in time for inclusion with distribution of the agenda each month.

All Cllrs

11/008 CLLR RESPONSIBILITIES

This would be discussed at the next Town Council meeting. Meanwhile, all Cllrs to consider their existing portfolio responsibilities and advise Town Clerk of specific areas of interest. All Cllrs asked to consider whether they could take on the portfolio for the future of the Judith's Field Pavilion building.

All Cllrs

11/009 GMC IN BLOOM

Following the request from GMCiB it was AGREED in principle, that an area in the corner of Devana Park, to the rear of Porch Close and Duck end, would be set aside as a trial area for a wild flower area. Grass would be left uncut, with a cut taking place twice a year. Wild flower seed would be planted and GMCiB would undertake to ensure the area was kept tidy and litter free. It was noted that our grounds maintenance contractor would charge an additional sum (in the region of £30 per visit) to undertake these two cuts, as it would need to be strimmed and raked rather than mown.

It was also AGREED in principle, that up to 10 trees would be planted at the other side of Devana Park in the area to the south of the footpath from Devana Close to Silver Street, to form the beginning of a town orchard. A member of the GMCiB committee had attended a course to learn about the creation of small orchards and would oversee the project.

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON asked that GMCiB also keep an eye on the fruit trees planted at Judith's Field.

The land at Devana Park would remain in the ownership of the Town Council and all neighbouring residents who might be affected by these proposals would be written to and their views sought. If there were any concerns, these would be discussed with GMCiB and the residents affected before final approval was given.

Town Clerk

11/010 APPROVAL OF TENDER DOCUMENT FOR PROVISION OF A MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AT JUDITH'S FIELD

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON presented an amended tender document and a list of 6 contractors selected to provide quotations for the provision of a MUGA. It was AGREED that with minor amendments, this document could be sent. CLLR TAYLOR commented that he was very impressed with the detailed analysis and excellent attention to detail provided by CLLR Ms MIDDLETON, he thought it was an excellent document and expressed his view, shared by all, that we were very fortunate to have her expertise. The tender would be sent out on Monday 24th January with a closing date of 1pm on Monday 21st February for receipt of tenders.

CLLR Middleton/
Town Clerk

11/011 TO CONSIDER PROVISION OF THE PEST CONTROL CONTRACT AT THE ALLOTMENT GARDENS

It was AGREED that the Town Council would meet the costs of the Pest Control contract for the Allotment Gardens for the coming year, in the sum of approximately £200.

11/012 CORRESPONDENCE

CLLR BUTCHER advised GMCiB had offered to plant whips around the perimeter hedge at London Road Cemetery. This offer had been gratefully accepted.

CLLR MARTIN advised he was liaising with the EA, GOBA, HDC and Stanjays to resolve the issue of the narrow boat moored at the Recreation Ground.

CLLR PAULEY confirmed he would attend the HDC Flood Forum meeting to take place on 3rd March 2011.

CLLR WILSON advised the management company responsible for Roman Way Industrial Units had replied to our request to place no overnight parking signs stating as they did not own the road, they could not erect notices. Town Clerk has written to Keir Homes with the same request.

THE MAYOR noted the request from Jack & Jill nursery for a formal rental agreement which they require as part of their commitment to the Pre School Learning Alliance. Mrs D'Agnello would provide further information to the Town Clerk

11/013 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS

11/013.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved.

11/013.2 Councillors received a copy of monthly salary information, the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 20th January 2011, a copy of the budget report on the year to date, and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation as verified by THE MAYOR and a copy of the quarterly bank reconciliation.

11/013.3 To approve Fenland Leisure Ltd as provider for quarterly inspection reports of all play equipment for the year 2011-2012. It was AGREED to appoint Fenland Leisure to undertake quarterly inspections and provide quarterly reports for the 5 play areas in Godmanchester with effect from July 2011 at a cost of £200 per quarter.

Town Clerk

It was AGREED to hold a Finance working party in February to discuss review of the Financial Regulations, how the Town Council will breakdown and explain annual expenditure. Town Clerk would advise all of a date when arranged.

Town Clerk/
All Cllrs

11/014 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.

11/015 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Town Clerk

11/015.1 Property Working Party: CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON had circulated a report on property matters. CLLR BROWN confirmed that the sundial had been removed and CLLR VANE PERCY was looking into options for repairs. CLLR BROWN advised an updated report had been received from Dalrod and they had advised there were further tests which could be carried out: (1) cleaning out the static water in the manhole chamber nearest the Chinese Bridge and monitoring it to detect where the water is coming from (estimated cost £244); (2) dye testing the down pipes to the East gable end of the QES to determine where rain water is currently routed (estimated cost £244); (3) clarify what damage exists below ground between the QES entrance and the now redundant water fountain located at the west facing gable end (estimated cost £725 per day).

Town Clerk

A report from Nick Armour, Conservation Officer at HDC had also been received and circulated to all Cllrs indicating a proposal for the way forward to manage the moisture in the QES which affects the floor each year. After discussion, it was AGREED that it would be prudent to appoint a structural engineer to guide us through the next stages rather than spend money at this stage on Dalrod investigations. Town Clerk would liaise with HDC for advice on at least structural engineers to approach for a quotation. CLLR BROWN reported that he considered a stress gauge should be applied to the west facing chimney to establish whether the crack was worsening but the lead flashing needed to be repaired as a separate order. Town Clerk would follow up on these matters.

Town Clerk

11/015.2 Judith's Field Pavilion Working Party: Mr Hayward had attended and provided very useful information about how Buckden had gone about providing a new village hall facility. It was clear that we needed to establish what the various clubs and residents would like to see provided as part of a new building before we could consider design or costing or possible sources of funding. It was mentioned that GMCCA may have funds set aside in their accounts for the future development of a community building. Town Clerk would write to formally thank Mr Hayward for attending the working party meeting.

Town Clerk

Cllr Mrs Hull left at 10.30pm

11/015.3 Judith's Field Facilities Working Party: CLLR Ms MIDDLETON presented a report on latest activity of the working party.

MISCELLEANOUS

CLLR TAYLOR circulated some information about cycle routes in Godmanchester and asked Cllrs to read this, for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.

CLLR PAULEY advised a meeting of the 800 committee had reported progress was being made on the provision of a Town Sign although the design was being re-drawn. It was noted that HDC were happy with the concept and siting of the proposed sign, but the final design was yet to be agreed.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL.

The meeting ended at 10.51pm

Mayor

