

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 19th MAY 2011

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

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

7 members of the public were in attendance

ACTION

11/071 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

CLLR ALAN WELTON was formally elected as Town Mayor for the year 2011 to 2012.

11/072 TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

CLLR WELTON duly read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by the Town Clerk as Proper Officer.

THE MAYOR invited Reverend Busk to lead the Council in prayer.

11/073 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

CLLR MRS WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor): holiday; CLLR RICHARDSON: holiday; CLLR VANE PERCY: attending function in London.

11/074 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CLLR WILSON: Planning Application made on behalf of the EA re 1 Post Street as EA are his employers and item relating to school admissions as he is a School Governor for GMC Community Primary School; CLLR MS MIDDLETON: any item relating to Wood Green as friends work there; CLLR MS MACLEOD: items relating to Jack & Jill as friends children attend; CLLR TAYLOR: item relating to Grant Applications from Baptist Church as he is member; CLLR PAULEY: item relating to school admissions as his son attends St Anne's school.

11/075 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21ST April 2011 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

11/076 PRESENTATION FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON PROVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IN GODMANCHESTER

Ms Kerrie Tonks, Youth Development Co-Ordinator addressed the Town Council. As a result of changes in the core budgets at CCC level, the Youth Service had been moving towards service level agreements, between parishes and CCC. Since the youth club at Judith's Field had closed earlier this year, the Youth Workers had undertaken some consultation with schools, young people and residents in Godmanchester. CCC were looking at the type of service level agreement undertaken with other parishes and had prepared an outline of what they could provide and what they would need from the Town Council. The Youth Service would undertake to liaise with the Town Council to involve and inform. At this stage it was proposed that a new youth club service would be aimed at 13-16 year olds and held at Judith's Field based on a 38 week term time basis. Costs would cover provision of 2 youth workers for that period. The Town Council would discuss this further at the next Finance Working party.

11/077 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

CLLR JEFF DUTTON thanked all members of the Town Council for the time and trouble they had taken to sort out the recent issues regarding school admissions. He confirmed he would be taking the issue of future provision of reception places up with officers at CCC and was sure that

CLLR WILSON would also be pursuing the matter. He asked to be kept advised of Town Council actions on this matter.

Mr Kynoch asked whether Town Councillors were able to claim expenses and it was confirmed Cllrs did not claim expenses but may be reimbursed via the Mayoral Purse, if they had been attending a function and incurring expense on behalf of the Town Council while representing THE MAYOR.

A Whippet bus driver had raised concern about the bollard at the junction of Anderson Crescent and Meadow Way. He had stated it was difficult to get round the corner as vehicles were parked close to the opposite corner. The driver indicated Whippet were reluctant to continue using this route with the current restrictions. Town Clerk would relay this information to Highways and PCSOs for their information.

Town Clerk

11/078 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MAYOR thanked the Town Council for voting him into office for a second term. He considered it a great honour to serve Godmanchester.

THE MAYOR confirmed he had represented the town on 5 occasions since the last meeting.

THE MAYOR confirmed that 3 resignations from the Town Council had been received from Cllr Mrs Helen Hull, Cllr Colin Hyams and Cllr Mrs Jo Fletcher. He thanked them on behalf of the Town Council for the valuable contributions they had made. THE MAYOR confirmed 2 prospective candidates had put themselves forward so far. THE MAYOR reminded Cllrs that letters of resignation from the position of Town Councillor should be addressed to the Mayor.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR asked all Cllrs to consider their current portfolios and to confirm their willingness to continue with these responsibilities prior to the next meeting.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR confirmed that his nominated charities for this term of office would be East Anglia Children's Hospice (EACH) who provided respite care for terminally ill children and their families and Speakability, who provided rehabilitation to people who had had a stroke. The Mayoress had also confirmed she would host an event during the year to raise funds for the Guiding and Scouting groups in Godmanchester.

11/079 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING

A report was presented on outstanding matters. Town Clerk would hasten Fenland Leisure regarding repainting of equipment in the Judith's Field toddler's play area.

Town Clerk

11/080 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The applications and correspondence set out in Appendix 11/080 were considered. The Town Clerk would advise HDC of the Council's recommendations.

Town Clerk

11/081 CORRESPONDENCE

CLLR BUTCHER advised he would respond to a letter from Mr Dillistone regarding wrought iron benches. CLLR BUTCHER confirmed he would make enquiries about the possibility of moving the Godmanchester sign located in West Street and currently obscured by foliage, to the junction of West Street with Berry Lane.

Cllr Butcher

Several grant applications had been received. These would be discussed at a Finance working party to be held on 6th June in the QES. Recommendations would be put forward to the Town Council at the June Town Council meeting.

11/082 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTS

11/082.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix 11/082.1 was APPROVED. (Cllrs Brown, Welton, Mrs Wilson and Butcher declared an interest as they were receiving payments for goods purchased on behalf of the Town Council)

11/082.2 Councillors received a copy of the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 19TH May 2011, 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.

11/083 PUBLIC BODIES(ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960: EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

It was resolved 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.

CLLR PAULEY arrived at 8.45pm

CLLR BROWN left at 9.00pm

11/084 TO DISCUSS TENDERS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED MUGA AND TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY

CLLR MS MIDDLETON had provided a thorough breakdown of criteria used to make recommendations for awarding the contract in respect of provision of a MUGA at Judith's Field.

It was AGREED that the recommended contractor be awarded the contract to supply and install a MUGA. The budget figure of £65.7k which included sum for contingencies was APPROVED. The recommended colour scheme of grey tarmac surface, grey fencing and blue poles was APPROVED. It was AGREED that the chosen contractor would supply and fit ducting and plinths for possible floodlighting but that floodlighting would not be installed at this time. It was AGREED that planning permission might be sought for installation of floodlighting but this would be considered again after the installation had taken place.

CLLR MS MIDDLETON confirmed that in addition to the few Cllrs who regularly attended the working party meetings, all Cllrs might be called upon to keep an eye on the project as it developed such as regular visits to inspect the site.

All Cllrs

CLLR MS MIDDLETON would approach the successful contractor with a view to getting a contract in place. Retention of a percentage of the contract price would be considered as part of the review of the contract before it was signed by the Town Council.

Cllr Middleton

CLLR MS MIDDLETON and members of the working party were thanked for their hard work on this project to date.

11/085 PUBLIC BODIES(ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960: READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

11/086 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

CLLR WILSON reported that there had been problems with the CCC primary schools admissions service affecting several families in Godmanchester who had not been given a reception class place at a Godmanchester School for children starting school in September.

CLLR WILSON was pleased to confirm that 6 places had been allocated at St Anne's CofE School which had meant the school would have 2 smaller reception classes from September 2011 and this also meant they could take a further 6 children. CLLR WILSON confirmed there had been errors in defining the catchment areas for the two primary schools in Godmanchester which would be discussed and resolved by the Admissions Team.

County and District Cllrs had expressed their concerns and the MP had also been involved. All parties had worked towards the same goal to get all families living in Godmanchester who wanted a reception place for their child accommodated. CLLR PAULEY advised that S106 money, from recent housing developments in Godmanchester had been set aside for educational purposes but had not been used for this purpose and he considered the Town Council should ask CCC to explain why this had happened.

It was AGREED that the Town Council would write to the Admissions Team seeking confirmation that all Godmanchester families had been given a reception place this year in a Godmanchester

Town Clerk

primary school and also seeking assurance that this issue would be addressed and resolved for future years admissions. Godmanchester, District and County Cllrs would be kept informed.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLLR MRS WILSON advised she had attended a recent resident's group meeting held on the green off Tudor Road. A significant number of people attended and a list of the residents' issues was compiled. CLLR MRS WILSON felt many of these issues could be dealt with and resolved.

CLLR WILSON advised Defra were undertaking consultation on the future of Inland Waterways. The information was passed to CLLR WELLS to consider as a planning consultation, although the Town Council had not been approached directly for its views.

Cllr Wells

CLLR WILSON advised a Town Council bowls team for the Gala Week matches was being formed. CLLRS PAULEY, MARTIN, WILSON and MRS WILSON volunteered to take part.

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16th JUNE 2011 IN THE TOWN HALL

The meeting ended at 10.04pm

Mayor

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