

GODMANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT: A WELTON: Town Mayor
Councillors: Mrs S WORTHINGTON (Deputy Mayor), 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

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

2 members of the public were in attendance

10/162 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

CLLR Mrs FLETCHER: work commitment; CLLR HYAMS: attending HDC Cabinet meeting; CLLR VANE PERCY: prior engagement.

10/163 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLR Ms MIDDLETON: any item relating to Wood Green as friends work at Wood Green. CLLR WILSON: any item relating to Environment Agency as he is an employee of the EA, any item relating to Twinning as he is a member of the Twinning Association, any items relating to CCC as he is a County Councillor. CLLR RICHARDSON: item relating to overnight parking in Roman Way due to his home address. CLLR BUTCHER: item relating to Twinning as he is a member of the Twinning Association. CLLR WELTON: item relating to Twinning as he is a member of the Twinning Association.

10/164 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The amended page (number 1071) relating to the amended minute 10/148 from the meeting held on 16th September 2010 was duly APPROVED and signed by the MAYOR as a complete and accurate record. The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2010 were duly APPROVED and signed as a complete and accurate record.

10/165 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

The Mayor drew the numbers for the 800 club November draw.

10/170 DISABLED PARKING BAY: The Causeway

THE MAYOR suggested hearing from Emma Murden in relation to item 10/170. A vote on this matter was taken at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

Ms Murden confirmed the CCC position regarding the proposed location for the disabled parking bay on The Causeway. She explained that legislation which Highways must comply with, meant the options were limited and the Town Council's request to locate the disabled parking at the Pinfold Lane end of the lay-by on The Causeway, was not suitable as the width of the lay-by was too narrow at this point and the safety audit carried out had also identified further dangers as this part of the lay-by was opposite the West Street Junction and close to the junction with Pinfold Lane.

CLLrs pointed out that the CCC preferred location, outside the hairdressers, was prone to flooding or standing water due to poor drainage, and was frequently blocked by lorries delivering to the nearby shop. It was also confirmed that disabled badge holders were permitted to park anywhere, as long as they were not causing a secondary offence by so doing.

Ms Murden confirmed that if the Town Council wished to pursue their preferred location there would be additional engineering measures and costs for design, works to widen the lay-by/change pavement layout and possibly costs for moving services such as street lighting and drainage matters, which would need to be met by the Town Council. Ms Murden also confirmed that if a decision had not been made in this financial year, funding for this project would be lost.

Ms Murden was thanked for attending and THE MAYOR confirmed a decision would be made later in this meeting.

10/166 REPORT FROM FINANCE WORKING PARTY:

CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON had produced a paper outlining recommendations in respect of the budget for 2011-12 and this was supported by a spread sheet. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON confirmed that County and District level local authorities had been advised by Government that there could be no increases in the precept raised. At present the Town Council were not within this regime but it was possible that they would be by the following financial year (2012-13) and so the budget prepared this year may well need to be sustainable in the following year.

In respect of the requests made by Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association, it was AGREED that the Town Council had no objection to forming a Twinning Agreement with Gubbio, provided it would not incur any cost to the Town Council. It was AGREED that the proposed Twinning budget be accepted for the year 2011-12, but the Town Council would review the budget on an annual basis in line with it's own budget preparation and were not able to commit or agree a 4 year budget. Town Clerk would advise HGTA.

Town Clerk

It was AGREED unanimously to accept the draft budget. (Attached to minutes as Appendix D)

It was AGREED unanimously to accept the recommended precept of £138,720. Confirmation of this request would not be submitted until further discussions had taken place at CCC and HDC as decisions made by these authorities could have a financial impact on parishes. We are required to submit our request by 31st January 2011.

During discussions, CLLR TAYLOR expressed his thanks for the inclusion of the new springers for the Queen's Walk play area. CLLR PAULEY expressed his thanks to the MAYOR and DEPUTY MAYOR for their negotiations with HDC which had resulted in a positive outcome on the issue of the public toilets.

10/167 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE MAYOR advised he had represented the Town on 7 occasions since the last meeting.

THE MAYOR thanked all Cllrs who had attended the Remembrance Day Services, held on 14th November. We were grateful to the Police who had managed the temporary stopping of traffic so well, allowing those attending the service to observe the 2 minutes silence, laying of wreaths and short prayers without traffic passing by. The Town Clerk had written to thank all various organisations who had been involved in the service for their involvement.

THE MAYOR reminded all that the annual switch on of the Christmas lights and Carol Service would take place on Wednesday 8th December outside the Town Hall starting at 6pm.

All Cllrs

THE MAYOR also reminded all that the December Town Council meeting would take

All Cllrs

place on 9th December.

10/168 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING:

The Town Clerk provided an updated schedule of matters arising. It was AGREED that as the following items had not been progressed for some time, that they would be removed from the list of outstanding matters: Handrails for disabled access fishing platforms; Provision of a flower bed at the entrance to Bridge Place car park; Painting Conservator for Mayoral Board; Parish Plans; Provision of a path to bench (adjacent to Weir No 2).

10/169 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Nothing to report from HDC.

CLLR WILSON advised CCC were looking for substantial savings next year in the region of £168m on a £912m total budget.

CLLR WILSON advised a national consultation was underway regarding planning for school development. There was a suggestion that schools could be provided without planning permission or traffic assessments etc. Cllrs were encouraged to respond to the consultation (CLLR WILSON would provide details).

Cllr Wilson/
All Cllrs

CLLR WILSON confirmed we had received notification that the youth club held in Godmanchester would be closing after Christmas, although out-reach sessions would be provided. CLLR WILSON and CLLR Mrs HULL would discuss future youth provision with CCC providers to determine how the Town Council could provide support.

Cllr Wilson/
Cllr Hull

CLLR PAULEY expressed his concern that the lights on the town bridge were still not working and a satisfactory answer as to why, had not been provided by CCC. CLLR PAULEY also advised there were still potholes on the footbridge crossing which were dangerous. CLLR WILSON would follow these matters up.

Cllr Wilson

CLLR PAULEY had been passed a letter from residents in Bluegate asking for a grit bin to be provided at the junction of Bluegate with Crowhill as this area becomes very dangerous in icy weather. Town Clerk would liaise with Highways and request that this area be gritted as it does form part of a bus route.

Town Clerk

CLLR TAYLOR was concerned to hear that there might be cut backs affecting CCTV monitoring provided by HDC. Town Clerk to ask CLLR HYAMS to clarify the situation.

Cllr Hyams

10/170 DISABLED PARKING BAY: The Causeway

Ten Cllrs voted in favour of provision of a disabled parking bay, subject to location. Eight Cllrs voted in favour of provision of the disabled parking bay in the location recommended by CCC being outside the hairdressers. This was subject to the drainage issues being resolved, and the road surface repaired as necessary. CLLR PAULEY, CLLR RICHARDSON and one other Cllr voted against this proposal and requested their names be recorded. CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON and CLLR Ms MIDDLETON abstained from the vote.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk would write to CCC to advise of the Town Council's decision and request that the on-going drainage problems be resolved and the road surface be levelled.

10/171 OVERNIGHT PARKING: ROMAN WAY

Complaints had been received about overnight parking in Roman Way and also complaints about noise created when gates were opened and refuse collected between 4.20am and 5.30am. As Roman Way was not adopted, it was AGREED to write to the

Cllr Wilson/

management company asking them to erect No Parking signs and to ensure any refuse collection etc was undertaken with due consideration for residents. CLLR WILSON will liaise with Town Clerk.

Town Clerk

10/172 CORRESPONDENCE

CCC Highways had advised that Godmanchester was not suitable as an area for a 20mph speed limit as the average speeds on main roads would need to be lower before we could be considered and suggested we needed further traffic calming measures to achieve this. Town Clerk would write to CCC to challenge the reasons for this decision and request again that Godmanchester be considered for an inclusive 20mph speed limit throughout the town.

Town Clerk

Residents in Granary Close had written to complain about inconsiderate and on occasion dangerous parking in their close by people unable to park in the doctor's car park, or people dropping off and picking up at the near-by nursery. Town Clerk would ask Highways for their views as to how this problem could be resolved and ask the PCSO's to monitor parking in Granary Close and advise drivers accordingly.

Town Clerk

10/173 FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTS

10/173.1 The list of payments to be made in Appendix B was approved.

10/173.2 Councillors received a copy of monthly salary information, the Petty Cash Reconciliation for the period to 18th November 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.

10/174 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 Mrs HULL declared an interest in the planning application relating to 23 Post Street.

Town Clerk

It was AGREED to hold an extra ordinary planning working party to discuss the planning application relating to provision of a flood alleviation scheme. This would be held on 24th November 2010, at 7.30pm at CLLR BROWN'S house.

All Cllrs

It was AGREED to hold an extra ordinary Town Council meeting to discuss and approve the response to HDC on the planning application relating to provision of a flood alleviation scheme. This would be held on Thursday 25th November 2010 in the Town Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Mr Dodson of the Environment Agency would be invited to attend to answer any questions that may arise. Members of the public and press were welcome to attend.

All Cllrs

10/175 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

10/175.1 Property: Still awaiting a response from CCC re the boundary wall issue. Town clerk to hasten. Still awaiting a response from HDC re the possible future re-opening of the public toilets. CLLR BROWN, CLLR Mrs WORTHINGTON and CLLR VANE PERCY to meet to discuss a way forward on QES issues. Town Clerk to hasten Dal-Rod for further information following their investigation into drainage issues in the QES.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk

10/175.2 Open Meeting: CLLR PAULEY had circulated a report following the open meeting held on 6th November. This report would be forwarded to all groups who had been invited to attend, with thanks to those who had been able to attend on the day. THE MAYOR confirmed that the Vice Chairman of the Citizens Advice Bureau had been invited to attend the next Annual Town Meeting to speak on the work of the CAB.

Town Clerk

10/175.3 CLLR WILSON had produced a report from the Personnel Working party. The recommendations contained therein, were APPROVED.

10/175.4 CLLR Ms MIDDLETON had provided a report on Judith's Field Play Facilities.

The recommendations were APPROVED although further discussion was needed on how to keep in contact young people who were interested in being involved in discussions, while meeting with all data protection requirements. CLLR Ms MIDDLETON expressed thanks to CLLR TAYLOR and CLLR RICHARDSON for all their hard work and involvement to date.

MISCELLEANOUS

CLLR TAYLOR advised he had had a meeting with School Council representatives at St Anne's primary school who had asked for information about current issues affecting the town. These representatives would meet with other school representatives at a school-wide forum.

All Cllrs

CLLR TAYLOR confirmed he would be interested in attending Cllr Professional Development Training. All Cllrs were asked to consider attending these sessions.

All Cllrs

CLLR BUTCHER expressed his view that not enough support was given to the Planning working party and all Cllrs should make an effort to attend this regular working party.

CLLR PAULEY advised there had been a positive 2012 meeting and it had been agreed to hold these meetings on a monthly basis in 2011. One initiative was to hold a literary competition, which both local newspapers would be involved in to judge.

The Town Clerk advised that the Coop were looking into the possibility of holding the ice skating evening again in Godmanchester. More information would be forwarded when available.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AN EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING TO BE HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2010 IN THE TOWN HALL.

The meeting ended at 10.24pm

Mayor