

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER 2009

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Bralant and King. Messrs. Fisher, Pollard, Wren, Leith and Steeples.
PC Busby and Central Beds. Councillor Brown.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes and Reddick. Messrs. Dear, Wilson and Barham. Central Beds. Cllr. Birt.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the 27th November 2009 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby named 14 offences.

There will be a Community Safety Forum in the Community Hall at 6.00pm on 26th January 2010 which will be open to the public.

A meeting has been held regarding the Corner Stone P H and it is believed that somebody will be stationed at the front door to stop customers from going outside to smoke.

Concerns have been registered about inappropriate parking in Hitchin Road/Clifton Road causing problems at the junction.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor has asked the British Legion to advise what we should do if a member of our community was killed in a war zone.

It was suggested that a 'Services' Role of Honour Board could be sited in the Church (subject to the vicar's permission) for those personnel who die in action.

The Mayor reported that a potential Gypsy and Traveller site for Shefford has now been withdrawn from the review - the nearest proposed site would be in Clifton. However, there will be a further debate and a consultation. The clerk has been given a full report on the Mayor's attendance at that meeting.

The Mayor wished all those present a Happy, Safe and Prosperous Christmas and New Year.

7. GALA REPORT

Mr. Wren informed those present that the Gala committee would like new groups and organizations to offer something different. 'Fly pasts' have been requested as well as kite flying. The balloon race will be resurrected and tickets will soon be on sale. The Gala is looking for a 'celebrity' to open next year's Gala.

8. FARMERS MARKET REPORT

Nearly £1,000 has been raised from the markets which will be used to enhance both the Farmers and Charter market.

There will be a meeting in the New Year whereby various 'themes' will be discussed for future markets. Lots of positive comments have been received and the markets are going from strength to strength.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Various publications : Local Councils Update, Parent Partnership Service, Beds-Spread, Local Council Review, Fieldwork-CPRE

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 2nd and 16th December 2009.

1825 : 12/2009 – Item 8 – Lloyds Pharmacy will be forwarding a reply.

Services and Maintenance of 9th December 2009.

1826 : 12/2009 – Item 6 – A questionnaire has been distributed in various places for residents to comment on local bus services.

1827 : 12/2009 – Item 9 – The play area is in an appalling state and will need major works before the Town Council will adopt it.

1828 : 12/2009 – Item 7 – The landlords at the Kebab House are unaware of the newly erected illuminated sign over the premises.

Cllr. Brown was asked to inform Central Beds. that in many cases Town/Parish Councils were being asked to offer comments at meetings that were far too late to attend.

Finance and Policy of 16th December 2009.

The increased precept is due to re-surfacing the Bellcote Meadow car park, improvements to play equipment and a donation to the Robert Bloomfield Middle School theatre.

The 2010/11 Precept was agreed by the full Council.

11. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

The proposed notice board will be granted a 'planting licence'. Confirmation is required as to the exact site.

It is hoped that the Lower School signs will be erected by the end of this year or beginning of next year.

Luton Borough Council has pulled out of the BEaR Project. Cllr. Brown will offer more information as it is announced.

12. ACCOUNTS

The Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

Close of meeting

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 6TH JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT

Mrs. Clark presided over Mrs. Harrison. Messrs. Mackin and Leith.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes. Messrs. Fisher and Barham.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOOTPATH

The footway between Northbridge Street and Powells Road is to be temporarily closed at various times between 11th January and 19th February 2010 for re-surfacing 73 metres of pathway. Specific dates and times will be advertised nearer the time.

4. QUOTATION FOR FENCING

An estimate for the supply and erection of 60m of 3 rail fencing plus posts and 3 kissing gates has been received from a contractor. Further discussion is to take place as to whether the fence should be made of wood or re-cycled plastic. Additional estimates are also to be sought.

5. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES

The Mayor said that last Monday he had attended a meeting at the offices of Central Beds. Council regarding the above. It is understood that the nearest site to Shefford could potentially be in New Road, Clifton. Concerns were raised at the meeting as to how the Officers are applying the criteria i.e. pitch size and the awarding of criteria points.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor has received a response from the Superintendent Pharmacist at Lloyds chemist suggesting that the best way to address the concerns of the Council regarding the local pharmacy was to have a meeting with their Area Manager. A date for the meeting will be arranged in due course.

End of meeting

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT

Mr. Coward presided over Mesdames Harrison, Bralant and Reddick. Messrs. Mackin, Dear and Pollard.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Wren and Wilson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLAY AREA REPORTS

The play area reports for December have been received from the contractor and all items requiring attention were noted.

4. CCTV REQUEST FROM RESIDENT Re KINGSMEDE

The committee has received a letter from a resident enquiring if the Town Council can provide a CCTV camera to cover part of South Bridge Street particularly in the area surrounding the Dalchini Spice restaurant.

The resident and the proprietor of said restaurant are to be advised that the CCTV camera in the High Street is expensive to operate. Retailers/proprietors etc. had already been asked if they would contribute to an additional CCTV camera but all had registered little or no interest. It was further suggested the proprietor should contact the local Crime Prevention Officer for advice or provide his own CCTV camera.

5. SHEFFORD CONSERVATION AREA

There will be a Conservation Area Review for Shefford at the Community Hall on Saturday 16th January at the Shefford Community Hall between 9.30am and 12.30pm organised by Central Bedfordshire Council.

6. HIGHWAYS

The clerk informed the members that he will carrying out an inspection of the roads and pavements in Shefford with a Highways Technician and as such requested information from the members as what problems areas they had noticed within the town boundary.

7. BARRIER – BELLCOTE MEADOW

The committee agreed that it was not practicable to erect a barrier across the vehicular access to the Bellcote Meadow. This conclusion was reached after several visits and inspections to the site.

8. INFORMATION FROM CENTRAL BEDS. COUNCIL RE THEIR SALTING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS PROGRAMME

Daily updates have been received from Central Beds. regarding the above during the current adverse weather conditions. The overall feeling of the committee was that the gritting programme was unacceptable and a poor service had been provided. Waste collection was also very poor with some houses not having their waste collected for several weeks. The committee felt that other 'services' e.g. fire, ambulance, breakdown etc. had been able to carry their duties on a fairly regular basis. It was also felt that communication to the public left a lot to be desired.

9. LOCAL BUS REVIEW

All the questionnaires received from residents regarding the above are to be given to Mr. Wilson who is to be requested to categorize the information accordingly. The Finance and Policy committee members will peruse the results prior to sending a response to Central Beds. Council.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk is to meet a member of the Central Beds. Highways Dept. to discuss the siting of the town notice board.

The clerk has invited Mr. James Parrish to discuss the possibility of a Greensands Ridge Farm Project. Mr. Parrish has e:mailed an Overview of the proposal which was distributed to the members.

Mr. Mackin informed those present that he had attended a consultation meeting on Gypsy and Traveller Sites hosted by Central Beds. Council.

Mrs. Reddick showed the members pictures of some items of equipment she had obtained from a website which would be suitable for the proposed fitness/trim trail.

It was agreed to ask the solicitor to look through the terms of our lease to ascertain if the Bedford Credit Union's transactions could be carried out in the Town Meeting Room.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT

Mrs. Clark presided over Mrs. Harrison. Messrs. Mackin, Steeples, Fisher.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes. Mr. Leith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

CB/10/00086/FULL
Conservatory to rear elevation.
44 Gresham Way

No objection.

4. DECISIONS

None.

5. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENT – CENTRAL BEDS. COUNCIL

The committee has received a copy of Central Bedfordshire Council's Planning Enforcement Policy which was adopted on 10th November 2009.

6. PARISH PARTNERSHIP FUND

A Central Beds. Council's Highways Technician has asked the committee for ideas as to how they would like their 2010/11 Parish Partnership Fund to be spent assuming it will be offered. Overall it was agreed to spend it on footway repairs particularly the pathway in Ampthill Road from The Bridge P H leading up to The Hollies which was omitted in last year's re-surfacing programme.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The committee has received a complaint from a resident regarding the use of the Disability Parking Bay in the High Street during January's Farmers Market. The Clerk is to respond accordingly and enclose a copy of a letter from a Highways Engineer employed by the County Council.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2010

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Harrison and Clark. Messrs. Mackin, Coward and Wren. Mr. Wilson was also present for part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. FUNDING REQUEST CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The committee has received a brief synopsis of the work carried out by the Citizens Advice Bureau along with a request for funding.

It was felt that in the current financial crisis, certain members of the public would be seeking more financial advice than ever before and as such it is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the sum of £500 be donated accordingly.

4. BUS SURVEY

Mr. Wilson gave the members an analysis of the returned forms from the public regarding the bus survey. A formal response is to be sent to Central Beds. Council.

5. LETTER FROM SOLICITOR RE USE OF THE TOWN MEETING ROOM BY BEDFORD CREDIT UNION

The committee has received a letter from the solicitor enclosing copy of the lease appertaining to the usage of the Old Fire Station. The letter explained the 'allowed' use of the Town Meeting Room and how it relates to possible use by the Bedford Credit Union. After receipt of the letter the clerk received a phone call from a representative of the Credit Union informing him that they longer wish to use the TMR. However, the solicitor has requested a preliminary response from the Council whereby the Trust would be minded to consider a formal variation of the user clause of the Lease to allow the premises to be used for community purposes not involving a trade or commercial use or venture. The committee agreed to such a variation and a response is to be sent accordingly.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Mackin gave a brief résumé of a consultation meeting he had attended at the offices of Central Beds. Council regarding the Housing Strategy.

It was agreed to request a contractor to proceed with resurfacing the pathway from Tippett Drive to the Millenium Green with 'road planings'.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.
