

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2010

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison Clark, Reddick and Bralant. Messrs. Fisher, Steeples, Pollard, Coward, Wren and Leith. Central Bedfordshire Councillors Birt and Brown.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes. Messrs. Dear and Wilson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 18th December 2009 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of PC Busby.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highways are dealing with the dangerous pavements in Southfields.

There is still some work to be done regarding the new website. It is hoped that the members can provide either an 'electronic' picture of themselves or allow a photograph to be taken. Any members who wish their details to be withheld should let the Mayor know in the next two weeks or so.

The next phase of the consultation regarding the Site Allocations Development Plan is now available 'on-line'. It is unlikely that much more can be added to the first submission but those present were requested to re-enforce the lack of infrastructure and amenities that the town suffers from.

There has been yet another incident of a vehicle leaving the road in Churchill Road. Luckily the vehicle did not need the services of the safety barrier protecting the play area as it spun off and ended up against the barrier on the other side of the road. Central Beds. Council has been requested to repair the barrier on several occasions but apparently there is still a dispute over ownership. The police report that the correct forms were completed and submitted for the damage of street furniture. So far Central Beds. have been unable to locate these forms which would allow the repairs to be carried out at the expense of the driver.

It is hoped that speed checks will be carried out in Churchill Way by Beds. police as several complaints have been received from residents living in the area. Some residents are so concerned they have considered taking matters into their own hands.

Mr. Mackin explained that he couldn't progress a resident's complaint about inappropriate parking and a damaged road sign in Mayfields with Beds. police as unfortunately there was not a police presence at the meeting.

7. GALA REPORT

There will be a meeting of the Gala committee at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 1st February in the Council Chamber. So far 44 stalls have booked a pitch and 30 cars will be on show. As ever more volunteers are required.

8. FARMERS MARKET REPORT

The next Farmers Market will take place on Saturday 13th February and will have a Valentine's theme. It is hoped that both the Morrison's and Asda stores will give some 'freebies'. Mr. Pollard said he would like a meeting before the next market to finalise matters.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Various publications : Bedfordshire Matters, News Central, Clerks & Councils Direct, Rural Services Network Newsletter.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 6th and 20th January 2010

Services and Maintenance of 13th January 2010

Finance and Policy of 20th January 2010

11. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

The Shefford Lower School street signs are now ready to be installed.

The phone number to report potholes is 0300 300 8049.

It is believed that the culvert in Stanford Road is blocked thus allowing the water in the ditch to seep onto the road.

29% of the Central Beds. Council's budget is provided by Central Government.

On 20th January 2010, the Employer's side of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services ('The Employers') formally responded to the trade union pay claim which was submitted in October 2009. The Employers informed the unions that they are unable to offer any increases in pay for 2010/11. They decided that a pay increase was not affordable, would compromise the ability of councils to protect services and would jeopardize council jobs.

Cllr. Birt explained the current situation regarding the proposed football pitches in the town. Further information was given on matters relating to the S106 Agreement monies. Overall it was felt that the Stanford Road site would be preferable as it is flatter with easier access whereas the Hitchin Road site would involve additional costs. However, ultimately it will depend on the developer and the monies provided. Sport England and the Football Association will be involved.

12. ACCOUNTS

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

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs. Audrey White informed the members that she is hoping to organise a wedding/christening exhibition later in the year. Any photographs, clothes or memorabilia from pre 1980 would be very welcome. It is hoped that the exhibition will take place in the Scout Hut.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

4. DECISIONS

None.

5. REVIEW OF TOWN PLAN

It was agreed to defer the review until later in the month.

6. SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

The committee has received a copy and CD of the *Site allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) Regulation 27 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008*.

The document is being published for consultation for 6 weeks starting on Monday 25th January 2010. The deadline for the return of any comments is 5pm on Monday 8th March 2010.

The document sets out the Council's chosen sites for allocating housing, employment uses and green space in the former Mid Bedfordshire Area. It also allocates the Key Employment sites and Important Open Space designations across the area.

The committee felt that as there were variances from the original there was a need to compare the two documents. Mr. Mackin said he would bring the initial document to the next meeting of this committee in order that any differences can be further identified.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Subsequent to a meeting with the Regional Manager of Lloyds chemist it was agreed to write a letter to the NHS Bedfordshire PCT to inform them of the numerous complaints the Council had received regarding the local branch.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Bralant.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. HIGHWAY REPORTS

The January Highway report has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council and was handed round to members.

4. PLAY AREA REPORTS

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

5. QUOTATION – LUCAS WAY PLAY AREA

The committee has received a quotation for bringing the Lucas Way play area up to standard prior to adoption by the Town Council. The quotation is to be forwarded to the solicitor along with a request that the quotation be sent to Aragon Housing in the hope that they will carry out the remedial work required. The solicitor is also to be informed that a further inspection will be carried out after the work has been completed before any agreements are signed.

6. BARRIER – MILLENIUM GREEN

In January the committee agreed that that they didn't think it would be viable to erect a barrier at the entrance to the Millenium Green car park. However, the committee has received an e:mail enquiring if the matter could be raised again. The committee's view remains the same in that it was highly likely that the barrier would be consistently vandalised involving constant on-going repair costs. It was also felt that personnel would not be available on a regular daily basis to open the barrier and lock it at night. It was further noted that if this wasn't done then it would involve cars parking in the street thus causing a nuisance to residents living nearby. Overall, the committee's opinion was that the issues relating to inappropriate use of the Millenium Green are a police responsibility.

7. FENCE – MILLENIUM GREEN CAR PARK

The play area contractor is to be asked if he would advise the committee as to the best type of fencing to use round the perimeter of the Millenium Green car park.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk issued information regarding an invitation to two Code of Conduct training events for Town and Parish Councillors.

The clerk informed those present that the Shefford Churches are organising Lent Lunches on the six Saturdays during Lent. The first one will be held on Saturday 20th February from 12.30pm to 1.30pm in the Shefford Community Hall.

The committee has received a complaint that certain areas of the river bank vegetation have been cut too short. The contractor is to be asked to maintain the vegetation at approximately one foot high.

It was agreed that it would be a nice idea to have a wooden 'role of honour' board erected in St. Michael's church for those service personnel that had died in the current war. It was further agreed that no new names would be added to the war memorial at the present time. The matter is to be progressed by the Shefford Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Mr. Pollard suggested that Pasque Harmony could be invited to come and sing in a suitable venue in the town. The committee would support this idea and although they couldn't offer finance they would be prepared to offer advertising in the Shefford Newslime magazine.

The Farmers Market will take place on Saturday 13th February and there will be a *Valentine's* theme.

Mrs. Reddick said she had attended the Whitbread Wanderbus AGM and informed those present that a new bus will be ready in March.

It was agreed to proceed with the fitness/trim trail which would probably need to be of a metal construction. More information and advice is to be sought.

Mr. Mackin informed the committee that he had sought a quotation for the purchase of a marquee for the annual gala.

It was suggested that a bench seat could be purchased and placed in Clifton Road adjacent to the river. However, it was decided not to progress this suggestion at the present time as the previous seat had been vandalised and then thrown into the river despite being secured.

Mrs Harrison said she had been contacted by a resident complaining that the Council was not showing sufficient interest in the needs of the elderly although many things were available for the younger residents. It was explained that the Council had received a grant specifically for youth activities. Said resident didn't offer any suggestions as to what would be of interest to the elderly.

The clerk was requested to contact Highways about a damaged traffic pole in Mayfields. The resident said he hadn't contacted Highways himself.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

CB/10/00318/FULL

First floor front extension.

14 Montgomery Avenue.

No objection.

CB/10/00131/FULL

Erection of replacement boundary fence (Retrospective).

Land at Old Bridge Way.

No objection.

CB/10/00361/FULL

Single storey rear extension.

4 Eisenhower Road.

No objection.

TPO/10/00034

Prune one Oak tree within rear garden.

6 Mayfields.

No objection.

4. DECISIONS

None.

5. RIVERBANK CORROSION

The committee has received 2 photographs from a resident showing corrosion of the riverbank. The clerk is to report the situation to both the Environment Agency and the Rights of Way Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk is to report a pothole and the entrance to Iveldale Drive and a blocked drain adjacent to it.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Mesdames Harrison and Clark. Messrs. Mackin and Coward.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. Harrison declared an interest in Item 4.

3. APPLICATION FOR FINANCE – St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CLOCK

The committee agreed to pay £250 towards the repair of the St. Michael's church clock.

4. ANNUAL INSURANCE RENEWAL – MILLENIUM GREEN BELLCOTE MEADOW

It was agreed to pay the Combined Ancillary policy in respect of the above.

5. REQUEST FOR FINANCE–SIGNAGE FOR FARMERS' AND CHARTER MARKET

It was agreed to order 4 signs to advertise the Charter market and 18 smaller signs to advertise the Farmers' Market.

6. COMMUNITY AND CIVIC AWARDS

The nominations in respect of the Community Awards were discussed. The proposed recipients will be notified in due course.

There were no nominations for a Civic Award.

7. NOMINATIONS OVPFF CUP

The nominations in respect of the above cup were discussed. The proposed recipients will be notified in due course.

8. QUOTATION FOR BOLLARDS ON MILLENIUM GREEN CAR PARK

The Shefford Saints F C have forwarded a quotation they have received from a contractor for the supply and erection of bollards to be placed round the perimeter of the Bellcote Meadow car park in order to deter vehicles from driving on to the football pitch. The Saints are to be thanked for their assistance and informed that the committee is also considering their own type of perimeter fencing.

9. REVIEW – s106 AGREEMENTS

The clerk is to request a meeting with the Central Beds. Council's officer that deals with s106 Agreements in order to seek clarification on the Agreements that are still outstanding.

10. DISCUSSION – BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

A letter previously received from the Beds. Police Authority indicated that the committee would receive a response to their concerns from a Superintendent that had recently attended a committee meeting. However, to date this response has never been received. The clerk is to contact Beds. police again reiterating the committee's concerns and requesting that they receive the promised response otherwise the committee will have to move up to the next level in the police complaints procedure.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the Shefford Newslime magazine still had not been delivered to residents living in Hitchin Road but the residents of Swallow Close have already received two copies. The Scouts have indicated that they will not be able to deliver the August issue because of school holidays etc., therefore, it was agreed that a contingency plan would have to be sought for that particular delivery.

More work still has to be done on the Shefford Town website.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.
