

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

### **PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Bralant, King and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Steeples, Wilson, Dear, Coward and Leith. PC Busby, PCSO Keen and Cllr. Brown.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs Holmes. Mr. Pollard and Cllr. Birt.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Wilson declared an interest of item on 1838 : 01/2010 – Mayor's Announcements – inappropriate parking and damaged road sign in Mayfields.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were confirmed and signed.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

Mr. Wilson outlined the situation regarding the inappropriate parking adjacent to the Health Centre and requested Beds. Police to take action. PC Busby said he would place stickers on any offending vehicles which would also explain the procedure regarding access to the area by emergency vehicles. It was further reported that the damaged road sign had indirectly allowed vehicles to park inappropriately. Cllr. Brown said the damaged sign had been reported to Highways and a job number had now been issued.

### **5. POLICE REPORT**

So far for February there had been 36 incidents of reported crime and anti-social behaviour.

It was reported that there was always traffic congestion in the vicinity of the Woolpack roundabout. PC Busby said he would be prepared to implement a letter-drop to residents living in the area but this would have to be some time in the future because of other commitments.

Police Sgt. Rivers is to be invited to a committee meeting to discuss various issues within the town.

### **6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Shefford Scouts will not be able to deliver the Summer edition of Newline. It is hoped that members will be able to deliver to a couple of streets each.

The website still requires some further work to be carried out in order to complete it. The Mayor reiterated his request for members to supply 'electronic' pictures of themselves or have one taken. Personal details will be withheld if requested.

PC Busby was asked if there was any further news on the safety barrier adjacent to the Churchill Way play area. PC Busby said he would investigate.

A meeting was held with the Central Beds. officer that deals with s106 Agreements in order to confirm any monies outstanding to the Town Council. The officer also gave advice as to what would be considered as permissible expenditure.

## **7. GALA REPORT**

The Gala is progressing well and acts are being sought for the arena. It is hoped that the parade will be longer than in other years but crowd control and safety is a major issue. There will be a bucket collection for 'Help for Heroes'. The crew of the air ambulance has been asked if they would attend but they have indicated that they are already booked elsewhere. However, they said they would attempt a fly-past if they were in the vicinity. The next gala meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## **8. FARMERS MARKET REPORT**

The Mayor reported that the last Farmers' Market had been well attended bearing in mind the adverse weather conditions. 40 'touch lights' had been given to appropriate residents. The next market will be themed towards Mothering Sunday.

At this point the Mayor welcomed Becky from the Youth Council who arrived to inform the members of their background and aspirations. Those present were informed of the Youth Council's achievements so far and were shown a copy of their Constitution.

A skate park is still very high on their priorities. It was agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting of the Services and Maintenance committee.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1 E:mail from Central Beds. LDF Team informing people that the date for submissions has been extended from 08/03/2010 to 15/03/2010.

9.2 Various publications : Get Out & Enjoy Bedfordshire's Countryside, News Central, Local Councils Update, Beds-Spread, Flood News, Network, Tree Tips, Standards Board for England The Bulletin.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

Services and Maintenance of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

Finance and Policy of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## **11. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPORT**

The Lower School signs are now in place.

Cllr. Brown presented a petition to Central Beds. from residents living at the top end of Ampthill Road requesting Central Beds. to construct a crossing there in order to make it safer for children walking to the schools from that end of the town.

Figures were given as to the finances required by Central Beds. to run the services and amenities in the area for which they have responsibility.

Cllr. Brown also gave information as to what monies will be received from Central Government and what additional monies they need to raise themselves.

It was reported that Tesco's planning department had written a letter the Chief Planning Officer at Central Beds. informing her that they will be knocking down the buildings at the old laundry site at the top of the High Street within the next two months or so.

**12. ACCOUNTS**

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

**13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

It was suggested that there was no longer a need for the 'sets' at the entrance to Iveldale Drive. Cllr. Brown offered to investigate the matter.

A question was asked as to whether or not there was a TPO on the tree adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Close and what would happen to it in the event of any construction being carried out there. It was stated that if there was a TPO on the tree then the matter would be dealt with appropriately by Central Beds. Council.

It was reported that a lot of litter was accumulating in the Ivel Road area.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2010**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs. Holmes.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

At this point Mrs. Clark welcomed four visitors who came to explain their vision for the future of Shefford and to present their proposals for land to the east and west of Hitchin Road.

The visitors were Nigel Lewis from Samuel Beadie, Graham Earl – Chairman of Shefford Saints (Juniors) F C, Ian Kyte – Bedfordshire East Schools Trust and Paul Watson from Phillips Planning Services. Each person explained their own perspective and gave their perceived view of the benefits to the town as a whole.

Mr Lewis also brought a large plan of the proposed area which was discussed in detail. Subject to some amendments, the 'package' will be forwarded to both Central Bedfordshire Council and the Town Council.

**3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION**

CB/10/00590/FULL

Erection of secure cycle compound.

Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Bloomfield Drive.

No objection.

Comment : would prefer to see a more suitable colour for the construction.

CB/10/00637/FULL

Single storey extension to southern elevation of existing Pre-School/Children's Centre Building.

Acorn Pre-School, School Lane.

No objection.

**4. DECISIONS**

None.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Rights of Way Officer at Central Beds. Council is to be informed about the eroding river bank along Footpath 3.

Concrete missing round a drain in Southbridge Street adjacent to traffic lights is to be reported to Central Beds. Highways Dept.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison and Bralant. Messrs. Mackin and Pollard. Mr. Wilson for part of meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs. Reddick. Messrs. Coward and Dear.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs. Harrison declared an interest in Item 5.

**3. PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS**

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

**4. HIGHWAY REPORTS**

The February Highway report has been received from Central Beds. Council and was discussed by the committee accordingly.

**5. STREET NUMBERING – LAND AT HITCHIN ROAD**

The developer responsible for building the new Health Centre has suggested the name of Robert Lucas Way for the small access road leading from Hitchin Road to the new surgery. This name was agreed by the committee and Central Beds. is to be informed accordingly.

**6. CAMPTON PLANTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The committee has received information that *Groundwork – Luton & Bedfordshire* has received external funding to carry out improvements at Campton Plantation including the creation of a sculpture trail using timber from the site. In order to ensure that the local community is involved, *Groundwork* has issued questionnaires to ensure that their plans for the site meet the needs of the local community. The committee completed the questionnaire which will be forwarded to *Groundwork*.

**7. CRIME PREVENTION SURVEY – MILLENIUM GREEN**

The committee has received a report from Beds police regarding the noise nuisance, littering and anti-social behaviour and criminal damage that regularly occurs on the Millenium Green. The report also offered suggestions as to how this could be minimized. The committee studied the report but felt that it did not offer viable solutions. The hedges named are privately owned, it was highly unlikely that members of the public could be relied upon to open and shut the suggested gate/barrier every day and as such was not viable, no consideration was given as to access by emergency vehicles. Overall it was agreed that all these matters were the responsibility of Beds. police and as such the clerk is to inform them of the committee's comments.

## 8. BELLCOTE MEADOW CAR PARK

A quotation for the supply of a wooden knee-rail to be erected round the Millenium Green/Bellcote Meadow car park has been received from a contractor. It was agreed that the plan and construction materials meet all the requisite criteria and as such is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council.

## 9. GRIT BINS

The clerk was requested to contact Central Beds. Council to enquire as to what plans they have in place for the provision of *grit bins* prior to next winter. In short, will they be provided or is it a service that can be devolved to Town/Parish Councils.

## 10. FITNESS TRAIL

Several quotes for the supply and construction of a fitness/exercise trail have already been received but an e:mail from Mrs. Reddick informed the committee that she was still investigating the matter at the present time.

## 11. SKATE PARK

At the meeting of the full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February a member of the Youth Council enquired as to the likelihood of a skate park in the town. The matter was further discussed by this committee and although members would like to assist the youth of the town it was explained that unfortunately the Council didn't own any land that would be deemed as suitable. However, the members agreed to keep the matter very much to the fore.

## 12. SATISFACTION SURVEY – CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS

Mrs. Harrison informed the committee that she had been requested by Central Beds. Highways to complete a questionnaire on their performance. The questionnaire was discussed and completed jointly by the committee members prior to forwarding on to Central Beds.

## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There will be a Farmers' Market on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

It was agreed to make a further request for 'yellow lines' to be painted in various parts of the town, particularly Clifton Road adjacent to the Woolpack/ funeral directors and at the entry from Purcell Way into Clifton Road.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

At this point the committee welcomed James and Nick Parrish who arrived to discuss their proposal for a Greensand Ridge Farm Centre. Ideally the site would include a farm based recreational, tourist and educational centre to serve local people, a café/restaurant, an open area to hold displays and exhibitions, a 'Grow your Own Centre' and an adventure playground. The proposed site would occupy 10 hectares in Kinsey's Field and would link to Rowney Warren. There would be employment opportunities for 40-50 part-time staff and parking for up to 100 vehicles. However, it would seem that the Planning Department at Central Beds. Council has grave concerns over the scale of the development at an isolated location in the open countryside and the absence of any special need for the proposal to be located in this particular location and as such couldn't offer any positive feedback at all.

The committee said that they fully supported the proposal and offered to assist in any way they could. They also registered their concern that Central Beds. Planning seemed to lack the foresight to see the full potential of the proposal, the employment opportunities and benefit to the community. It was noted that both Centre Parks and the Forest Centre had both obtained planning permission.

The meeting continued.

**3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION**

CB/10/00716/SE73

Extension of planning condition 1 (retention of building on site for a period of 5 years) for an additional 5 years on planning approval 04/02317/FULL dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

Samuel Whitbread Nursery School, Shefford Road.

Unable to determine at this meeting – awaiting further information.

CB/10/00625/FULL

Erection of nursery building and office complex with associated car parking.

Samuel Whitbread Community College, Shefford Road.

Unable to determine at this meeting – awaiting further information.

**4. DECISIONS**

None.

**5. ALTERATIONS TO ROAD JUNCTION – NEW ROAD, CLIFTON**

Following the recent fatality of a policeman at this junction it was felt that there is now a positive need to modify the junction, namely a left turn only. A letter of concern is to be written to the Asst. Director of Highways to express this view.

**6. CHANGES TO BUS OPERATOR TIMETABLE**

Central Beds. is having to line up a new operator and timetable for Bus Service 90 (Arlesey-Stotfold Taxibus) and has requested that the issue is brought to the attention of Langford, Henlow, Clifton and Shefford Councils. It is hoped that a new contract would accommodate the aspirations of local bus users and among other matters would include a bigger bus with easier boarding and a direct service between Stotfold and Shefford. The committee agreed to support both proposals.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD on  
17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE**

An application for funding has been received from a scout wishing to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Kristianstad, Sweden. However, there are no *powers* in place for a Council to grant funding to an individual. The committee suggested that the Scout should contact the Gala committee.

**4. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – WHITBREAD WANDERBUS**

It was agreed to make a financial donation towards the Whitbread Wanderbus particularly bearing in mind it is their 21<sup>st</sup> year of operation.

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE STAKEHOLDER SURVEY**

The Audit Commission and HM Inspector of Constabulary have issued a questionnaire to assist with a joint inspection of the Bedfordshire Police Authority which is due to start shortly. The Mayor completed the questionnaire and copies were issued to members to pass their comments prior to returning to the Audit Commission.

**6. AGENDA – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April was agreed.

**7. S106 AGREEMENTS**

The clerk is to seek a meeting with the Play & Open Space Officer at Central Beds. to ascertain the deadlines by which S106 monies due must be claimed and the criteria for which the money can be released.

Information and a quote are to be sought from the play area contractor regarding the possible purchase of outdoor exercise equipment.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

