

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29th AUGUST 2003

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Warwick, Collins, Holmes and Reddick, Messrs. Gray, Dear, Fisher, Leith, Coward, Wren, Blake and Steeples. County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillors Messrs. Brown, Birt and Chapman.

One minute's silence was held in respect to Mr. Jack Walker who recently died and had been a Council member for over 30 years.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Fletcher and P. C. Battams.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs. Collins stated that she had been lead to believe than an attachment would be included with the Minutes on a topic that she had mentioned at a previous meeting. As no such attachment had been received she asked for an explanation. This was given by Mr. Mackin. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 A brief summary was given on the life of Mr. Jack Walker and his service to the community for over 30 years.

4.2 A proposal to ask the Finance and Policy Committee to consider setting up some working groups to look at such subjects as the rationalisation of the 'small works' that are always required in the community. These works need to be reviewed and programmes should be devised to 'let out' to suitable contractors.

4.3 As a large part of Shefford is built on or near flood plain, all available measures should be looked at to assist property owners in the likely event of flooding.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 A letter from Bedfordshire County Council warning about the dangers of Rogue Traders operating in the area. Some guidance notes on how to deal with the situations that arise from employing unscrupulous workmen were attached.

5.2 From Beds C C (Babtie Group) informing The Council that work is to commence on the Zebra Crossing in Bedford Road. The contractor is Raynesway Construction Southern and the installation will be south east of Cornish Close. Temporary 3way signal and stop/go boards will be required for safe traffic management.

- 5.3 From Beds C C a letter regarding the provision of visibility markings on the bollards within the High Street. There is no objection to the markers being installed but costs would have to be borne by either Shefford Town Council or Mid Beds District Council.
- 5.4 A report from Bedfordshire Police regarding speed checks carried out between 1.4.2003 and 30.06.2003 in Ampthill Road. A total of 31 people were dealt with for exceeding the speed limit. Clerk to ask for speed checks to be carried out on the Bedford Road.
- 5.5 A letter from Action Point regarding Disabled Parking Outside Barclays Bank North Bridge Street and a request for the signs to be made clearer and yellow disabled signs to be painted on the road to deter non-disabled motorists from parking there.
- 5.6 From Mid Beds DC regarding Scrutiny of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in Mid Bedfordshire. An Overview and Scrutiny Task Force has been established to scrutinise the events that have lead up to the current situation. The letter included a request that the Town Council should let the Scrutiny Task Force know their views on the proposed arrangements for enforcement of decriminalised parking.
- 5.7 Letter from British Telecom re removal of payphone in North Bridge Street. Clerk to write to Telecom to state that it should be retained.
- 5.8 A further e:mail from Mr. Pyecroft of Mid Beds D C regarding a possible site for a nursery in Shefford. At present no sites are available.
- 5.9 An application has been received to renew and vary a Public Entertainment Licence at the Bridge Hotel. Mr. Steeples said he would attend a hearing on 8th September to state his own objections to that licence both as a Shefford resident and as a member of the Town Council.
- 5.10 The Summer issue of Aragon Housing's 'In Touch' Magazine.
- 5.11 A report on the quality of Drinking Water from Anglia Water
- 5.12 August/September issue of 'Watch Wide News'
- 5.13 From Beds C C a journal on 'Best Value Performance Plan' and a further journal about 'Improving Bedfordshire's Services.
- 5.14 From Beds Rural Communities Charity an invitation on 10th September for a morning or afternoon tour.
- 5.15 From Mid Beds D C a copy of the Forward Plan for the period 01.09.2003 to 31.12.2003.

Mr. R. Blake was appointed as the Town Council's member to serve on the Shefford Sports Trust Committee.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No full Committee meetings took place.

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7. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Younger.

8. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Messrs. Brown, Birt and Chapman.

9. ACCOUNTS

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

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A question was asked about the storage of items removed from the Old Forge. Mr. Wren stated that they were temporarily being stored at Parrish's Farm under lock and key. Mr. Gudgin had been asked about storage at the windmill on the Stanford Road but this was deemed to be unsafe and unsuitable. Enquiries had been made about possible storage the Old School but this would mean competing with developer's market prices and maintenance costs would be too high. In short Mr. Wren stated that future permanent storage would be a very difficult problem to overcome.

A report was made about vandalism at Kingsmede and damage to a tree and some railings.

The meeting closed at 9.40 a.m.
