

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 19th DECEMBER 2003

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Collins and Holmes, Messrs. Gray, Wren, Leith, Fisher, Steeples, Coward and Blake and County Councillor Mr. Younger.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick, Messrs. Dear and Fletcher, District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Birt.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mackin drew the members' attention to the fact that there is to be a public meeting in the Community Hall on February 6th 2004 regarding the 'Volunteers Register'. A copy of MBDC's A – Z Directory of Volunteering Opportunities is available. Mr. Mackin further added that any groups that need volunteers can contact him and he will record details of what help is available or needed.

Finally, Mr. Mackin thanked all Council members and their families' for their efforts over the year and looked forward to continuing the good work into 2004.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Letter received from Shefford & District Branch of the British Legion thanking the Council for their donation and wreath. The collection at the Remembrance service was £333.45 and with all other donations and collections in Shefford, Campton, Southill and Chicksands the amount raised was £4281.

6.2 Reply received from Bedfordshire Police regarding a letter that was sent to them expressing the Council's disappointment at the temporary removal of P C Battams. The reply stressed that the removal was temporary and was also necessary to meet exceptional circumstances.

6.3 A report on crime statistics in Shefford for the period 1/11/03 to 30/11/03

6.4 A letter from Beds CC stating that Decriminalised Parking Enforcement will start on 1st February 2004 and from that date the responsibility for enforcing most on-street parking controls passes from the Police to Bedfordshire County Council. South Beds D C will operate the enforcement scheme on behalf of the County Council for both Mid and South Bedfordshire.

6.5 A copy of Mid Beds Forward Plan from 1/1/2004 to 30/04/2004.

6.6 Leaflets received from Bedfordshire Heartlands NHS Primary Care Trust on 'Your Guide to Local Health Services 2003'.

6.7 Notification of a Community Safety Conference Thursday 11th March 2004 at 6.30 p.m. at the Rufus Centre Flitwick.

6.8 Two Journals received- 'Heartlands Headlines-NHS' and 'Improving Bedfordshire's Services-Bedfordshire County Council's Corporate Plan 2003/4 and 2004/5'.

6.9 Leaflets received from Bedfordshire and Luton NHS Trust regarding the 'Freedom of Information Act 2000- Public Information'

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Following were adopted:

Planning and Environment of 3rd and 17th December 2003.

Services and Maintenance of 10th December 2003

Finance and Policy of 17th December 2003

8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This report was given by Mr. Robin Younger.

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This report could not be given due to the absence of District Councillors Messrs. Birt, Brown and Chapman. Mr. Brown had previously telephoned the Clerk and asked that the Town Council's attention be drawn to an item in the Aragon Housing Association journal 'In Touch' and asked for his best wishes to be extended to the Town Council for Christmas and the New Year.

10. ACCOUNTS

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

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions from the public were asked.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m