

A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE WAS CONVENED AT 7.30 p.m. PRIOR TO THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Mr. Phillip Knightly was appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditor.

COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

Recommended that these be adopted.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2003

PRESENT

Mrs. Harrison presided over Mesdames Holmes and Warwick, Messrs. Gray, Fisher, Wren and Dear, District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Birt. P C Battams.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick, Messrs. Leith, Coward, Fletcher, Blake, Mackin and Steeples. County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillor Mr. Chapman.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Harrison gave the announcements in the absence of Mr. Mackin.

Mrs. Harrison invited all those present to attend the final full Council meeting of the calendar year on the 19th December for a drink and some light refreshment.

Mr. Wren announced that he would be happy to lead a team to look into the possibility of running a parade prior to the Summer Fayre but would need the help of Councillors and others.

The Town Plan is going well but a few more 'willing' helpers are required. Mrs. Harrison if Councillors could recruit members of the community to help with the handling of data.

In view of a recent spate of distraction robberies it was thought that Councillors might need identification cards when visiting residents etc. Mrs. Harrison said that if Councillors would give her a 'passport style' photograph she would make such an ID card available.

County Councillor Mr. Younger has asked for the Town Council's support via a communication to the Mayor prior to the meeting, for a dual use Sports Hall at the Robert Bloomfield School. His request further stated that if the Council were to support the proposal it could then go forward with other proposals for consideration for grant funding. The Town Council unanimously supported the proposal.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 An invitation to attend Biddenham Village Hall to hear a presentation on Re-cycling of waste material.

6.2 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan November 2003 to February 2004 inclusive.

6.3 A letter from Bedfordshire Police on Parish Speedwatch Schemes and a statement showing that 13 people were dealt with for speeding on the Ampthill Road during July and September.

6.4 A 'flyer' from Beds R C C regarding the Local Network Fund in Bedfordshire.

6.5 Several journals have also been received from various authorities:- Street Scene, The Playing Field, Local Council Review, Civic Street, Countryside Voice, Bedfordshire 2003, The Playing Field and CPRE's Transport Campaign Group,

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted:

Planning and Environment of 1st October and 15th October

Services and Maintenance of 8th October

Finance and Policy of 15th October

8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This report could not be given due to the absence of Mr. Younger

Mrs. Holmes gave a brief talk on the Public and Patient Involvement Forum.

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Birt and Mr. Brown.

10. ACCOUNTS

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

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11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PC Battams read out the crime figures for the month of September. He then went on to say that four Crime Support Officers have been allocated and it is hoped to have a full contingent of five in the near future. One has been allocated to Stotfold and one to Arlesey and jointly they will cover Shefford. They will be identifiable by their uniforms of which PC Battams gave a brief description.

District Councillor Mr. Birt said that the curtains had been torn at the youth club, the door had been burnt and there had been an attempt at burning the notice board.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.