

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD  
ON 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Gray presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Collins, Messrs. Steeples, Fisher and Leith.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr. Mackin.

Mrs. Holmes was proposed as Vice Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee, seconded Mrs. Harrison and agreed unanimously that Mrs. Holmes be elected.

**2. PLANS FOR COSIDERATION**

03/01321/LB

Rebuild section of boundary wall.

White Hart. P.H. North Bridge Street.

No objection

03/01574/TDM

Upgrade of existing 15mtr. Pole and cabinet with new 15mtr. Monopole to support 6 no. antennae and up to 2 no. transmission dishes. Cabinet to be replaced with new 2.4mtr. mini cabin with planting.

Shefford Mill, Stanford Road.

No objection

BC/CC/2003/46

6 new classrooms and ICT room, extensions to 4 existing classrooms and hall. Additional car park spaces, new pedestrian route, realigned driveway, extended hard play area and associated landscaping.

Shefford Lower School, Bloomfield Drive.

No objection and supported.

**3. DECISIONS**

None

**4. ASH TREE ADJACENT TO 35 PURCELL WAY**

A report has been received from Mid Beds D C (Tree and Landscape Officer) regarding the an Ash tree that has low branches in close proximity to a house in Purcell Way. The report suggests:- Remove overall crown size by 25%, remove low branches extending towards 35 Purcell Way, remove all deadwood and remove and sever ivy. Clerk to set works in motion.

## **5. VEGETATION / DEBRIS IN RIVER AT SOUTHBRIDGE**

It was noted that there were potential blockages and rapid reed growth particularly at the junction where the Rivers Hit and Flit join which could cause flooding in the event of heavy rain. Clerk to inform the Environment Agency that remedial works should be carried out as quickly as possible.

## **6. JUSTICE'S OFF LICENCE – SOMERFIELD STORE**

Change of store manager – no objection.

## **7. JUSTICE'S LICENCE – 'STEAMER' 142 CLIFTON ROAD**

Application for Licence – no objection.

## **8. MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD RISKS IN BEDFORDSHIRE**

A request has been made from Mid Beds D C for two Town Councillor's to form a Committee to look at 'Managing Flood Risks in Bedfordshire'. Mr. Leith from the Planning and Environment Committee agreed to represent the Town Council as one member and a further representative is to be sought from the Services and Maintenance Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Letter received from a resident regarding his dis-satisfaction with the outcome of the Planning Decision on 44 New Street. The Council supported his comments and a letter is to be sent to Chief Executive of Mid Beds D C with a copy to Pat Turner.

An observation was made regarding litter and overhanging trees in the vicinity of Church Walk.

It was pointed out that the trees are being dealt with by agents of the Church and the clerk was asked to contact 'Serviceteam' with regard to the removal of litter.

Complaint regarding buses still using New Street as a route to school. With new contract changes this road should no longer be used for such purposes. County Councillor Mr. Younger has been informed and the clerk will also contact the County Council.

It was reported that minks have been sited on the riverbank. The Environment Agency is already aware of this problem.

A suggestion was made that the river should be made navigable. It was stated that this has been already looked into by the Ivel Valley Project and other bodies but was thought to be far too expensive.

A Mr. and Mrs. Fountain have made a request to join the Town Council. It was felt that as the Council already has a total of 15 members it was unnecessary to increase that number. It was further pointed out that should a vacancy arise then there is a procedure for co-option on to the Council.

Clerk to contact the County's Rights of Way Officer regarding two broken steps on the bridge over the river in the vicinity of the White Hart Public House.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.