

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2003**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick and Warwick, Messrs. Mackin, Dear, Coward and Blake.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr. Fletcher.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**3. VARIOUS WORKS – LANDSCAPING**

Letter received from David Bevan, Heritage and Environment Manager of Bedfordshire County Council. The letter detailed a report on various areas of landscaping that had been visited by Alison Myers at the end of October. The Committee did not wholly agree with this report and as such site visits are to be arranged between the two parties to view the sites in question.

**4. SPEED HUMPS IN NORTHBRIDGE STREET**

Two letters received from residents regarding road noise caused by vehicles travelling over the speed humps in Northbridge Street. This has caused a reduction in the quality of life experienced by the residents. The Council is not able to undertake any remedial works but will take action to help alleviate the problem by harassing the County's Highway Department, Bedfordshire Police and by pushing hard to implement the Speedwatch Scheme.

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES**

Questionnaire received from Bedfordshire County Council regarding 'Library Services'. Mr. Mackin to answer the questions and add his comments.

**6. PIPE IN RIVER – NORTH BRIDGE STREET**

Mr. Wren to visit site of pipe in riverbank to ascertain it's proposed use.

**7. LIME TREE ADJACENT TO No. 2 ELM ROAD**

Reply received from Aragon Housing Association regarding a letter previously sent to them asking if they would attend to a tree which has branches overhanging the corner of the resident's garden at No. 2 Elm Road. The reply stated that the Association was not prepared to trim the branches as they were deemed not to be unstable or dangerous. Clerk to write to Aragon to explain that the Town Council appreciated their policy but to explain that the resident's light was reduced because of the branches and it was not practical for him to undertake the work personally.

**8. FUNDING – MILLENIUM GREEN**

Letter from resident suggesting that the Council should precept for works required on the Millenium Green. It was stated that the Council does currently precept for the insurance and that the Trust does have sufficient funds available for general maintenance work. However, funds would decrease if the work had to be 'contracted out' but it was hoped that with the possible setting up of a 'Volunteers Register' this could be avoided.

**9. PRECEPT**

Draft Precept was amended and Recommended to the Finance & Policy Committee.

**10. ZEBRA CROSSING - BEDFORD ROAD**

E:mail received from Babtie (Consultants to the County Council's Highways Department) in answer to a question from the Town Council as to the legality of the above Zebra Crossing. The reply stated that the crossing was 'legal' and had been recently Safety Audited by two experienced safety engineers. As several 'near misses' had been reported in the vicinity of the crossing. Babtie has asked Bedfordshire Police to monitor the situation and report back to the Council.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A large amount of litter has accumulated around both the industrial area and the area to the rear of the Somerfield's store. Clerk to write to Mr. Daniels and Somerfield's store manager to ask if they will arrange for it to be removed.

A request was made for litter bins to be placed in various areas in the town, namely Ivel Way and New Street.

It was reported that school buses are still using New Street as a route to the school. A further report stated that on one occasion cars were blocking Kingfisher Road, whether deliberately or not, thus forcing the buses to use New Street. Clerk to write to the County Council expressing the Town Council's discontent at this situation.

It was noted that the proposed Tesco store site was becoming an 'eyesore'.

Councillor Mr. Birt is to hold a meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004 in the Community Hall to try and set up a Volunteers Register.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the new recycling bags were smaller and thinner than the old ones which in turn meant that not only did they hold less but were more likely to tear.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

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