

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 9th JULY 2003

PRESENT

Mr. Fletcher presided over Messrs. Mackin, Wren, Dear and Blake and Mrs. Harrison.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Coward

2. SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME C207 HITCHIN ROAD

A letter has been received from Beds C C (Babtie Group) stating that re-surfacing work will be taking place in mid July along the Hitchin Road. The work will be carried out by Raynesway Construction Southern Ltd and a two-way traffic control system will be in operation. A warning was also received regarding the possibility of bogus workmen claiming to be involved in the works who may be offering to do work on driveways etc.

3. DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Richard Payne – Chairman of the joint County and District Member Group- states in a letter that South and Mid Beds District Councils have agreed to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement with a target date of 1st February 2004. The Parking Attendants themselves will be employed by a contractor and the scheme will be managed by a Special Agency Agreement with the County Council .

4. AREA AROUND DUCK LANE CAR PARK

It is planned to tidy-up the area around the Duck Lane car park and to further sow grass seed and plant flowers in order to enhance the area. The Robert Lucas Trust will clear the area which will then be maintained by Shefford Town Council with the grass cutting hopefully being put on a contract. A meeting is to be arranged with Mr. T Callaghan and Alison Myers.

5. BENCH – HITCHIN ROAD

A bench seat situated alongside the Hitchin Road is in a dilapidated state of repair and as such is to be replaced.

6. BUS SHELTER INITIATIVE

No reply has been received from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity regarding a letter requesting an update on the Bus Shelter Initiative. The Town Council has previously applied for a grant towards the renewal of bus shelters in specified areas of the town. The Clerk to write again to enquire what progress, if any, has been made.

7. PLAY AREA - SOMERFIELD'S STORE

A phone call has been received From Mid Beds D C stating that there is graffiti in the play area at Somerfield's store. Clerk to contact Clements Construction regarding it's removal.

8. PLAY AREA – MIDLAND CLOSE

A representative of Mid Beds District Council telephoned to say that a large amount of litter had accumulated in the play area at Midland Close. Clerk to contact Cleanaway Ltd to organise it's removal.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Plan working party has put some work on a disc. It was agreed that this can be viewed on the Town Council's computer but there would be a need for 'passwording'.

Regarding the lights in Ampthill Road it was stated that the concrete post is to be removed shortly.

The fencing in the Kingsmede area should be in place in two to three weeks time.

A gully is to be installed in the area of Priory Gate.

Enquiries are being made regarding the possible introduction of bollards for the footpath at Greathill/Lucas way.

The Council's attention was drawn to the nuisance caused by an overhanging tree at the end of Elm Road that has become seriously overgrown.

The situation of parking outside the stonemason's is to be looked into because of potential accidents.

The gully outside the D I Y shop is to be cleared.

It was pointed out that the pothole in the Ivel Road/Clifton Road area was now so dangerous it could possibly throw a vehicle off-line and was particularly hazardous to pedal cyclists.

There is still no news as to when the developer will make improvements in New Street. A question was asked about the potential hazard caused by wheelie bins on collection day and what could be done to improve the situation.

The gate at the STMA was reported as being very noisy and causing annoyance to people.

Beds County Council will allow gratings outside the Council Chamber.

There was a brief discussion on the tidying up of roundabouts and the maintenance of them in the future.

Concerns for public safety were raised regarding parking in Gresham Way and the difficulties experienced by the Emergency Services by way of entry to and exit from the area.

It was again noted that the speed of vehicles entering Shefford from the Bedford Road was far too high.

The parking bays in North Bridge Street are to be re-marked fairly soon with the traffic light area to follow suit in October.

New bollards are being ordered to replace the 'leaning' ones in the High Street.

Babtie have been commissioned to deal with the railings in Bedford Road.

Street signs are required for New Street and George Street.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.
