

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2003

PRESENT

Mr. Fletcher presided over Mesdames Harrison and Reddick, Messrs. Wren, Dear and Mackin.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Blake and Coward.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3. BUS SHELTERS

A letter received from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity stated that Project Funding for 2003/2004 was fully committed. However, although the region has been allocated a significant budget from April next year, the Beds. Rural Transport Partnership/MBDC Bus Shelter Initiative cannot process applications until that date. The BRCC pointed out that it was possible that alternative funding may be available from the MBDC Bus Shelter Grant in the current financial year. If available 75% of the total project cost is obtainable, the rest being funded by the Town Council. Clerk to investigate appropriate procedures.

4. FORMATION OF WORKING GROUPS

It was suggested that working groups could be set up to consider such items as sponsorship of roundabouts and other open spaces.

The possibility of compiling a list of 'small works' contractors that could be used for tendering for work was discussed, along with the possibility of organising a list of actual 'small works' that require occasional attention.

It was thought possible that the town may also need a group of people to be responsible for the preparation of an emergency plan that would deal with civil emergencies whilst ensuring that they did not overlap with the emergency services available from both the County Council and Mid Beds. D C.

5. PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING – BEDFORD ROAD

A letter from Beds C C Bactie Group was received giving reasons why the proposed zebra crossing in Bedford Road appeared to be abandoned. The delay was due to the fact that the delivery of the correct lanterns and brackets was not made on time which meant that the marking of the zebra stripes and the installation of 'New Pedestrian Crossing Ahead' signs could not be implemented. The outstanding items should be delivered in the week commencing 27th October and the work should be completed in that week depending on weather.

6. TREES IN SHEFFORD

There have been three complaints from residents regarding problems with trees. Advice has been sought from Bedfordshire County Council's Arboricultural Officer. The lime tree outside No. 2 Elm Road is the responsibility of Aragon Housing Association. Clerk to contact Aragon accordingly.

The County Council will deal with the hawthorn tree in Osborn Crescent – hopefully within two weeks.

The willow tree and poplar tree adjacent to No. Bedford Road are to be dealt with by the Town Council. The clerk to arrange for quotes.

7. PROPOSED TRIP TO ELSTOW RECYCLING UNIT

Interest has been shown in visiting the recycling unit at Elstow. Clerk to contact District Councillor Brown to check on the availability of such a visit.

8. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORA

An invitation has been received from Mid Beds D C attend a meeting on 12th November at the Council Offices in Ampthill to discuss such matters as alternate weekly collections for waste, the Quality Parish Council Scheme and the Best Value Review of Public Spaces.

9. BEDS C C LOCAL TRANSPORT THIRD ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Two documents regarding the above have been received from the County Council. Mrs. Reddick is to peruse them and complete the accompanying questionnaire.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that school buses are still using New Street as a route to school. Clerk to write a letter of complaint to the Managing Director of Stagecoach.

A request is to be made for a 'Keep Clear' sign at the bottom of Osborn Crescent due to the difficulty experienced by emergency vehicles attempting to turn.

A report of a dead tree in the vicinity of Somerfield's Store. Mrs. Harrison to identify the exact location before remedial action can be taken.

Another complaint of a lorry shedding it's load in Stanford Road has been received. Letter to be written to 'Highways' Department of Beds. C C to see if traffic calming measures can be installed to avoid a reoccurrence of this incident.

Last week two accidents occurred at the junction of Clifton Road and Victoria Road. It is suspected that the primary cause of these latest incidents and others previously, is inappropriate parking. More and more complaints are being received about the parking situation in this area and the Police are to be contacted to see if anything can be done.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.
