

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2003

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick

2. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE RE FLOOD RESILIENCE IN SHEFFORD

Mr. R. Dear was nominated as the representative from the Services and Maintenance Committee

3. CONDITION OF WINDOW FRAMES AT REAR OF COUNCIL CHAMBER / FIRE EXIT DOOR AT REAR OF TOWN MEETING ROOM

It was reported that the wooden window frames at the rear of the Council Chamber were now rotten as was the fire exit door in the Town Meeting Room. Clerk to get a list of contractors and quotations.

4. POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A BUILDER/S TO STORE LOOSE SAND RE POTENTIAL FLOODS

A request to be made to Shefford Building Supplies to enquire if they would be prepared to store loose sand for the Town Council that could be used for the filling sandbags in the event of flooding.

5. COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT RE NOISE NUISANCE IN THE AREA OF CEDAR CLOSE

A complaint has been received from a resident re local children causing distress to residents by making excessive noise. Clerk to forward a copy of the resident's letter to Aragon Housing Association and to the Police to see what action can be taken. Clerk to inform resident of action taken.

6. ANNUAL RECEPTION MID BEDS TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS

An invitation has been received Beds County Council for Town/Parish Councillors to attend workshops on various topics.

Mrs. Warwick will attend on 'Younger People (focus on learning)' and 'Older People (focus on independence)' and Mr. Blake will attend on 'Younger People (focus on learning)' and 'Growth Issues (Milton Keynes & London/Luton)'. A further representative/s may be sought from the Finance & Policy Committee.

7. WHEELIE BINS / REFUSE COLLECTION

Apologies to be sent to District Councillor Mr. Brown to inform him that regrettably the Town Council were unable to send him their comments on the above before his deadline of September 10th

A suggestion that Mid Beds D C should arrange trips for those interested to visit the recycling unit at Brogborough – Shanks & McEwan.

The Town Council would object to any reduction in the weekly service for the collection of domestic waste.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A letter to be written to Beds County Council requesting details of procedure for the local Homewatch team to be able to put their signs on lamp posts. Also to enquire if the same procedures apply to unadopted roads.

It was noted that dead trees on the riverbank next to Southbridge need to be trimmed back. If a CCTV camera were to be erected in this area then it's view would be obscured should the trees remain in their present state.

Fencing by the gauging station at the Meads has been thrown into the river. This needs replacing and clearing from the river before the winter rainfall.

Complaint received from a resident in Stanford Road regarding gravel being lost from passing vehicles. The resident has been asked to write to the Council with a specific complaint.

Clerk to write to Parripak regarding lorries/trailers using Stanford Road and dropping vegetable waste and liquid on to the road.

Bedfordshire police to be asked to set up a speed check and vehicle count in both Stanford Road and Bedford Road as more speeding complaints have been received.

Police also to be informed about the situation of vehicles parking on the pavement in Lucas Way.

Letter of complaint to be written to Aragon Housing asking that they give immediate attention to the situation of rubbish/furniture being dumped by tenants under the entrance archway at Old Bridge Court. They are to be reminded that they won a Civic Award but have now left the area in disrepair with broken fencing and overgrown footways - the landscaping is in a disgusting state and the area full of litter.

It was reported that the problem of parking in Gresham Way was still ongoing and had been passed from the County Council to Mid Beds D C. A suggestion was made that evidence should be collected by residents which should then be passed on to Mr. J. Tombe at Mid Beds D C who is already aware of the situation. It was thought that a site meeting would be beneficial to discuss what measures could be taken.

Clerk to contact the Highways Department of the County Council to remove dangerous broken bollards before a child is injured on the broken plastic.

Police to be asked to deal with obstructive parking in Lucas Way. It was pointed out that emergency vehicles would have difficulty in getting through.

Nuisance youths are using the car park in Old Station Way for skateboarding. They are also playing football there in spite of a sign prohibiting such use and residents have complained about the footballs being kicked against their walls. It was also reported that the youths are abusive when approached.

Clerk to write to Highways Department of the County Council to enquire exactly what the new arrangements are for highway matters other than emergencies and also to send them a list of all outstanding matters requesting a date by which they should be resolved.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.
