

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 27th AUGUST 2004

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Warwick and Reddick, Messrs. Fisher, Leith, Coward and Wren, District Councillor Mr. Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Collins, Messrs. Dear, Gray and Fletcher. Phone message received from District Councillor Mr. Birt informing members that both he and Mr. Brown may be late due to a prior commitment.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th July were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

Mr. S. Whittaker (or a representative) from Mid Beds D C is expected to attend the next full Council meeting on 24th September to give a presentation on Alternate Waste Collection. Awaiting final confirmation.

An e:mail has been received from Mr. Birt confirming to members' that the £200 donated to the 'lights committee' from the Town Council has in fact been received.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mayor reported that there had been a delay on the original start date in respect of the remedial work on the Churchill Way crossing. However, confirmation has been received from Taylor Woodrow that work is now due to commence on 2/3rd September.

The Mayor informed those present that he and Mrs. Harrison had finally met Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Mike Colbourne. He further stated that some positive points had come out of the meeting particularly with regard to part funding of a PCSO. There is a possibility that the Community Speedwatch programme may be reviewed and we now have a name of a person that can be contacted if there are problems with the police call centre. Mr. Mackin stated that he had received a letter from Acting Inspector Janet Wilkins regarding the Speedwatch scheme. This letter also contained information in relation to the number of speed checks carried out in Shefford

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 A booklet from Beds County Council entitled 'Tastes of Bedfordshire – Food and Crafts

6.2 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan – 01.09.2004 to 31.12.2004.

6.3 A letter from Beds County Council regarding Bogus Caller Training Package that reported on a Seminar held last June and included advice on how to deal with uninvited 'doorstop callers'.

6.4 A letter and explanatory leaflet entitled 'Household Waste Acceptance and Access Policy'. The information pack also included details of some of the facilities in Bedfordshire that will accept most commercial waste types including many recyclables.

6.5 A letter from Beds County Council inviting members to participate in a review of the supported bus services in various parts of the county. Any comments can be forwarded to JMP Consulting in Shenstone, Staffordshire.

6.6 A document from the Boundary Committee for England informing members of its recommendations for electoral arrangements in Bedfordshire County Council. The Committee is recommending that the County Council should have 52 councillors representing 46 divisions, but that there should be changes to division boundaries in order to improve electoral equality. Any comments can be directed to The Secretary of the Electoral Commission in London.

6.7 Information from Mid Beds D C giving notice of a Town & Parish For a on 25th November 2004 to be held at the MBDC offices in Ampthill at 7.00 p.m. A formal Agenda will be distributed to Councils in due course.

6.8 A report from CPRE entitled 'Communities not Concrete' in relation to the Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub-regional Strategy Panel Report. The report is now with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister who will issue his proposed amendments to the Strategy for public consultation in a month or so, before making a final decision in December this year or January next year.

6.9 Various Publications:- Local Councils Update, Bedfordshire & Luton COMPACT – Mid Bedfordshire Council for Voluntary Service, Prospectus from Shuttleworth College, a newspaper entitled 'The Retirement Education Centre (Bedford) Ltd.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee meetings held during August.

8 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

No report could be given due to the absence of Mr. Younger.

9 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Chapman.

10 ACCOUNTS

Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was stated that the entry charge to the Shuttleworth grounds was now £3. This was thought to be a charge implemented by the Shuttleworth Trust. However, if parents and children wished to use the play area only but had to use their cars for transport to the site, then they would have to pay the £3 car parking charge although entry to the actual play area is free. Information is to be sought as to whether or not this is a permanent figure or does it relate to the summer months. A suggestion that charges could be reduced for people wishing to visit for a shorter period of time.

Concern was raised about the state of the paths in the vicinity of the Fire Station / phone box in Ivel Road.

Mr. Chapman informed members that he would investigate the situation regarding the fact that there are insufficient refuse bins for the number of flats in Old Bridge Court.

Report of a bicycle in the river in the vicinity of the bridge in Southbridge Street.

A suggestion was made that the equipment recently removed from the Old Forge could be displayed in the lobby of the new MBDC offices in Chicksands when the building is complete.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.
