

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Rooker, Messrs. Fisher, Leith, Coward, Steeples, Wren and Gray.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mesdames Warwick and Reddick, Mr. Dear, District Councillor Mr. Birt and P C Battams.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> November were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

Mr. Mackin informed members that the letters asking for the co-operation of the sellers of alcohol to be wary of selling to underage persons have now been distributed. He further informed members that so far he had not received any feedback.

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor wished those present a Safe Christmas and a Prosperous, Healthy and Safe New Year. He stated that there was a challenging year ahead but was confident that those challenges would be dealt with in the usual way.

Mr. Mackin also informed members that there seems to be an upsurge in anti-social behaviour and street violence and requested that anybody witnessing such mindless activities should report to the Police accordingly. He also underlined the fact that the individuals responsible for these acts will not be tolerated.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Recorded Crime Incidents for Shefford-November 2004.

6.2 A joint letter from the Chief Executive and Leader of the County Council informing members of the County Council's ratings as categorised by a Comprehensive Performance Assessment by the Audit Commission. Although the statement says that 'Bedfordshire County Council has changed from being poor to weak', the letter stated that the County Council would be working hard to continue improving all the services for which it has a responsibility.

- 6.3 A letter from the Mid Beds Local Strategic Partnership enclosing a copy of the first edition of their newsletter which can also be downloaded on a website.
- 6.4 A letter from Halcrow Group Ltd giving information on the Luton Northern Bypass Feasibility Study (M1 to M6 and A6 to A505). A leaflet providing further information was also enclosed and as well as a request for comments opinions from the general public.
- 6.5 A copy of the 2004 edition of the Bedfordshire Heartlands Tourist Association entitled 'Days Out'. The aim of the magazine is to help increase the number of visitors to the County by informing readers of places of interest and where to stay etc. so their 'spend' while in the County forms a part of the overall economic well-being of the County. As this is a voluntary service, the letter asked for assistance by way of a £20 grant to help with their endeavours. It was unanimously agreed to support this application for funding.
- 6.6 A letter and booklet from The Standards Board for England entitled: Local investigations: guidance for monitoring officers and standards committees.
- 6.7 Various publications:- Local Councils Update, Fieldwork – from CPRE, Funding Times.
- 6.8 Letter from The Head of Property & Economic Development at Mid Beds D C informing members of the 'Start of Works' at the Central Offices in Chicksands. The letter covered such items as Duration of Construction work, Site clearance and demolition, Traffic, School buses, Construction of the roundabout, Noise, Fencing, Re-cycling facility, Site safety and Security and Rubbish/litter/mud on the road.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted:

Planning and Environment of 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004

Services and Maintenance of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004

Finance and Policy of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004

## **8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This was given by Mr. Younger.

## **9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

This was given by Mr. Brown and Mr. Chapman.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

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

**11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Concerns raised about the number of potholes in Stanford Road.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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