

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25th JUNE 2004

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Reddick, Messrs. Fisher, Gray, Steeples, Coward, Leith and Wren. District Councillors Mr. Birt and Mr. Chapman, County Councillor Mr. Younger and PC N Battams.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Collins, Ms. Rooker and Mrs. Warwick, Mr. Dear and District Councillor Mr. Brown.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th May were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

It was noted that the 'leaning' traffic pole had now been replaced.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mackin offered his thanks to Mr. Wren and others for all their hard work on making the Parade and Summer Fayre such a success. It was hoped that the Council could contribute a little more towards next year's event.

Mr. Mackin also offered his thanks to P C Battams and his volunteer team in constructing the skate ramp. At the same time he also expressed his dismay at the amount of debris left scattered around the area. Although there have been complaints about noise and disturbance from residents adjacent to the area, overall the skate ramp was thought to be a success and was being well used by those youths with a real interest.

A request was made for a volunteer to attend the next Action Point on July 2nd. Mr. Steeples said he would attend.

Finally, because of concerns raised about the state of the grass in the newly adopted Churchill Way area, Mr. Mackin asked members of the Services and Maintenance Committee if they would kindly stay behind after the full town meeting to discuss the grass cutting contract.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Recorded Crime Incidents from Bedfordshire Police,.

6.2 Mid Beds D C Forward Plan – 01.07.2004 to 31.10.2004

6.3 Temporary road closure – UC147 Shefford to Ireland Road, Shefford and Southill.

6.4 An invitation to attend the seventh A G M of the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Ltd on Wednesday 14th July. An Agenda and brochure were enclosed.

6.5 A letter from Mid Beds D C informing the Town Council that the existing Residential Design Guide and Extension and Alterations Guide are being revised. They will be available on the District Council's website and comments are invited.

6.6 Various publications have also been received:-Beds C C – Improving Bedfordshire's Services Corporate Plan 2004/5 -2006/7, Street Scene, Bulletin 19 from the Standards Board for England, Countryside Voice, Funding Times, Fieldwork and Local Councils Update.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted:-

Planning and Environment of 2nd and 16th June 2004

Services and Maintenance of 9th June 2004

Finance and Policy of 16th June 2004

8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Younger

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

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

10. ACCOUNTS

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

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Councillor Birt enquired as to why parts of the paved areas are marked with a blue aerosol. Anglian Water and Mid Beds D C are to be contacted to find out the reason.

A member of the public stated that time is limited as to how much longer the contents of the forge can be stored with the farmer. It was stated that a building that could be used as a museum would be ideal. It was unlikely that a developer would be interested in providing such a building as a site used for a house would provide them with a far greater income. There is a possibility that there could be space in the STMA after the proposed building works has taken place.

A letter from Mid Beds D C has been received asking this Town Council and others if they would like a brief presentation on the new waste and recycling measures that will be coming into force next October. The Clerk to reply that the Council would like a presentation at their next full Council meeting on 30th July.

It was stated the Wanderbus might soon have to close because of new edicts from the insurer's. Amongst other things there will be stricter medical examinations for older drivers and a need for MIDAS training.

PC Battams informed members that a police watch had been mounted at both the Millenium Green and the STMA sites due to complaints about noise and disturbance from residents adjacent to those areas.

A complaint about the large pot hole in Ivel Road. This has already been reported on two previous occasions but yet another firm request for immediate remedial action is to be sent to the Highways Department of the County Council.

Councillor Birt stated that The Shefford Lights Committee had not yet received the £200 donation promised by the Town Council.

N.B. Investigation after the meeting showed that the £200 had in fact been sent and was debited to the Council's Bank Account on 16th March. Councillor Birt to be informed.

Councillor Birt's request for a donation in support of funding for the Community Hall is to be discussed at the next Finance and Policy meeting on 21st July.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.
