

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2004**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Collins, Messrs. Gray, Dear, Fisher, Coward, Fletcher, Steeples, Leith and Wren. P C Battams, District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Birt.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mesdames Warwick and Reddick, County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillor Mr. Chapman.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs. Harrison declared an interest in one item of correspondence – Millenium Green. Mr Steeples declared an interest in a letter from the Shefford Methodist Junior Section requesting a donation from the Town Council towards the costs of publishing a children's service directory.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

Mrs. Collins asked if a new date had been given for the meeting of the Ethics and Standards Committee that was due on 3<sup>rd</sup> March but had to be cancelled. Councillor Brown said he would find out the new date and inform Mrs. Collins accordingly.

Mr. Fisher informed members that Aragon Housing were going to review the situation regarding the refuse bin situated in Old Bridge Court which was deemed to be too small for the amount of refuse discarded there.

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Mackin drew the Council's attention to the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting which will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall. Agenda items will be discussed later at this meeting.

Mr. Mackin also stated that there had been a very slow response from the public with regard to joining the Volunteer's Register.

Information has been received that the Community Speedwatch Scheme in Bedfordshire has been dropped. However, Mr. Mackin stated his intention to continue the campaign to reduce the danger of speeding.

Finally, Mr. Mackin said he had received a letter from a Shefford resident who was asking the Town Council to support a children's information day that is being put on at the Methodist Church on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is to be followed up by the publication of a directory of youth activities and information. The Town Council agreed to support this initiative and as such offered to donate £100 to the project.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Mid Beds D C Forward Plan from 1st April to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2004
- 6.2 Results of an Annual Police Questionnaire from Bedfordshire Police Authority.
- 6.3 A letter received from the Standards Board for England via Mid Beds D C drawing member's attention to 'Code of Conduct' – Applying for a Review of a Referral Decision.
- 6.4 An invitation from CPRE to attend their A G M which is to be held at Toddington Village Hall on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m.
- 6.5 A Newsletter from the Forestry Commission regarding their Volunteer Ranger Service.
- 6.6 A letter from the Samaritans asking the Town Council to display a poster in the Town Meeting Room window.
- 6.7 A letter and two booklets from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister giving information on 'Draft Guidance to Monitoring Officers by the Standards Board for England' and 'Local Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct'
- 6.8 A notification from Mid Beds D C giving information on grants awarded in the area by the Grants Advisory Committee.
- 6.9 An invitation from the Bedfordshire Rural Sport and Physical Activity Group to attend a conference in Haynes Village Hall on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss issues affecting sport and physical activities in rural areas. Mrs. Collins agreed to attend.
- 6.10 A notice that the Bedfordshire Advocacy Service for Older People is running a training course this Spring.
- 6.11 Various journals:- Mid Beds Voluntary News, Bedfordshire, Funding Times, Horizon, Clerk & Councils Direct, Local Council Review, Network (News & Information from Beds R C C), Dti/Defra Rural Broadband.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted:

Planning and Environment of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Services and Maintenance of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Finance and Policy of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Mrs. Collins queried why she wasn't asked to attend the 'flood meeting' on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Mr. Mackin replied that it was not an appropriate meeting for additional Councillors to attend other than those representatives of the Council that were already dealing with the issues. He explained that the intention of the meeting was for those people/groups that had available resources in the community and therefore would be able to respond quickly in the event of an emergency.

## **8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This could not be given due to the absence of Mr. Younger.

## **9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

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

Mr. Brown informed those present that an Open Day was to be held at the Elstow Recycling Facility on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Mr. Brown also produced a large poster showing the before and after photographs of the towns that had undergone an enhancement scheme, namely, Shefford, Biggleswade and Ampthill.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

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

## **11. ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA—ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**

The following suggestions were put forward for the Agenda:-

- 11.1 Progress on Town Plan
- 11.2 Recycling
- 11.3 Carnival/Parade/Summer Fayre
- 11.4 Information on Funding

## **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Lamp post No. 5 in Southbridge Street appeared to work on an intermittent basis.

Reports of flooding at the junction of Ivel Road and Clifton Road and remedial work required at the point of the dropped kerb.

A note that the bark chippings along the path to the Millenium Green adjacent to Elgar and Purcell Way were in need of 'topping-up'. It was pointed out that there was a broken tree branch in this area but the responsibility for it lies with the Developer.

Mention of the debris in the river was made but the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Drainage Board and the Environment Agency had already been made aware and asked to deal with it's removal.

Report of 'leaning' traffic sign outside the public toilets. The County Council had already been made aware of this and has promised to attend to it in due course.

Information from P C Battams regarding the 'nuisance noise' emanating from a resident in Maple Drive was now far less. P C Battams further stated that the introduction of the PCSO's had made a very positive impact on lessening the incidents of crime in the town.

The owners of the now disused Rubbermaid's premises are to be asked to remove the power supply to it as the building has now become a place for 'nuisance youths' to congregate.

Councillor Birt gave an explanation as to why the horsechestnut tree outside the Community Hall had had it's lower branches removed.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

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