

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2004**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes, Collins, Warwick and Reddick, Messrs. Mackin, Fisher, Steeples, Dear, Gray and Leith.  
County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillor Mr. Chapman.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr. Wren, Mr. Coward, District Councillor Mr. Brown and P C N. Battams.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

The petition launched to request action from the appropriate authorities regarding the crossing at Old Bridge Way / Churchill was going well. It was decided to continue with it for the next few weeks although it has been intimated that positive news has been received from the parties involved in the required remedial works.

Mr. Younger requested information regarding the 'leaning traffic pole' in North Bridge Street to be sent to him. It is hoped that he will be able to carry out an investigation as to why the pole has not been replaced.

Mr. Morwood, the Tree Officer of Mid Beds D C has been contacted regarding two trees adjacent to 99-103 Pinemead that require attention.

The situation regarding the grass cutting in Amphill Road and Queen Elizabeth Close are to be discussed at the next meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee along with complaints of grass cuttings covering the footpaths.

It was reported that the Town Council still had not received a reply to their letter to Bryant Homes requesting that the hole in the pavement adjacent to the Kingfisher Play Area should be filled in with the correct material and not sand. However, it was noted that the hole has now been 'ringed', which hopefully indicated that the need for a repair had been noted.

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A letter has been received from Mr. Boatwright in forming the Council that he wished to resign from both the P3 Group and as a Trustee of the Millenium Green. He stated that he was prepared to retain the Trust's lawnmower and cut the grass on the Millenium Green if the Trust so agreed. He urged the Mayor to try and persuade at least one member of the Council to join the P3 Group. A letter of appreciation is to be written to Mr Boatwright thanking him for his services to both the community and the Town Council.

A letter from the High Sherriff of Bedfordshire requesting that he is keen to support the efforts and achievements of community projects and industry within the county during his year in office. He would also like to be made aware of Centenaries or significant anniversaries of any churches in the area as well as major refurbishments of significant buildings.

'Make A Wish' Charity to be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee.

Ms. Carol Rooker is to be appointed to serve on the Services and Maintenance Committee.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Letter from the Beds Association of Town & Parish Councils informing Councillors of a New Councillor Training Session to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall in Haynes. Mrs. Collins stated she would like to attend.

6.2 A letter from Biggleswade Town Council that Cllr. David Smith has been re-elected as Town Mayor and Cllr. Peter Vickers has been elected Deputy Town Mayor.

6.3 Crime Record Report from Bedfordshire Police showing details of reported crimes in Shefford for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

6.4 Further information from the Mid Beds D C's Youth Participation Officer regarding the taxi token scheme.

6.5 Standard Boards for England Bulletin No. 18.

6.6 Invitation from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity inviting Councillors to a workshop focusing on the need for carrying out CRB checks for volunteers (or employees). This will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. and repeated on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00 a.m. at their premises in Cardington.

6.7 An invitation from Bedfordshire County Council informing Councillors of a Bogus Caller Awareness Seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> June at County Hall, Bedford.

6.8 Mid Beds Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

6.9 An invitation from the Bedfordshire Playing Fields association informing Councillors of a seminar at Shuttleworth Jubilee Play Centre on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The seminar is aimed at authorities that have a responsibility for the maintenance, management or inspection of a play area.

6.10 An invitation from Mid Bedfordshire's Citizen Advice Bureau to attend their AGM at the Mid Beds District Council's Offices in Ampthill. Guest speaker is Cllr. Patricia Turner.

6.11 E:mail from P C Battams updating members on the following:- PCSO funding, School Crossing Patrol Officer, youths climbing on the town sign, criminal damage at Shefford's Dental Surgery, Lucas Way is yet to be dealt with.

6.12 Various journals:- Horizon, Bedfordshire & Local Councils Update.

6.13 A letter from a Shefford resident enclosing a petition stating concerns about an article in Edition 37 of Newsline about flooding issues. The residents are to be invited to a 'flood meeting' on 2<sup>nd</sup> July which will hopefully allay their fears.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted:

Planning & Environment of 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004

Services and Maintenance of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2004

Finance and Policy of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004-06-04

## **8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This was given by 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. TERM OF SERVICE FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

A discussion took place as to how many times a Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be allowed to stand for office. It was stated that as these positions are elected annually, then there is always an opportunity (should two or more people stand for office) for a new Mayor/Deputy Mayor to be elected. The topic is to be discussed by the Finance and Policy Committee and then referred to the full Council

## **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Notification of seven lime trees in Digswell Close emitting a sticky substance causing a nuisance to residents. It was thought that these trees are the responsibility of the County Council.

A complaint about the hazardous parking situation in Clifton Road. The police are to be asked to do a vehicle count and County Councillor Mr. Younger stated that he would speak to Mr. Jones of the Highways Department at the County Council to see what could be done to remedy the situation.

It was pointed out that the area surrounding the entry to the fire station in Ivel Road was very hazardous. The Town Council has already applied to the Highways Department of the County Council to see if it was possible to have a marked yellow junction box on the road at that point.

Clarification was sought as to how the weight restriction worked with regard to Heavy Goods Vehicles (7.5 tons) entering the town. This was explained by Mr. Mackin and County Councillor Mr. Younger.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

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