

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2004

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick, Holmes, Rooker, Messrs. Gray, Fisher, Coward, Steeples, Leith and Fletcher. County Councillor Mr. Younger.

1. APOLOGIES

Mesdames Collins and Warwick. Messrs. Dear and Wren. District Councillors Messrs. Birt, Brown and Chapman, PC N Battams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th October were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

Mr. Wren informed those present that there had been a great deal of interest in the possibility of holding a celebration in 2005 to commemorate the 60TH Anniversary to mark the end of World War II.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mackin announced that the Council Chamber will be closed from noon on 24TH December 2004 to 10.00 a.m. 4TH January 2005. Urgent enquiries should be directed to the 'Chairs' of committees or to himself during this period.

Mr. Mackin also informed members that letters will be distributed to sellers of alcohol asking for their co-operation with regard to the selling of alcohol to underage persons.

Those present were also reminded that they are invited to nominate a member of the public for the High Sheriffs Citizen Awards. The criteria being 'somebody who gives of their time unstintingly and without financial payment or gain, in the community or in an organisation, whether this is in an organising or caring capacity'.

Mr. Mackin reminded members that earlier in the year there had been presentations from two 'Security' companies who could provide the town with officers to carry out additional street patrols. The next stage of investigation into finding out the best method of providing the extra resource will be to send a letter to the Council areas covered by our beat manager. This would take the form of an enquiry to see if they would be interested in 'share-funding' an additional PCSO and offering to set up a presentation for any interested Councils.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 A letter from the Head of Democratic & Legal Services Officer at Mid Beds District Council enquiring if there are any members in need of further training in respect of Members' Code of Conduct.
- 6.2 A letter from the Youth Participation Officer at Mid Beds D C informing members' of various youth projects that take place in and around the Mid Beds District. The letter also enclosed a 'Youth Report'.
- 6.3 A letter from the Bedfordshire Railway and Transport Association urging members' to help save Bedford's future by turning down the Willington rowing lake and progressing the advance of the Oxford-Bedford-Cambridge rail link.
- 6.4 A request from Macmillan Cancer Relief asking if Shefford Town Council can help them reach their £1.1 million Bedford and District Appeal. The letter also enclosed a poster which is now currently displayed in the window of the Town Meeting Room.
- 6.5 A letter from the Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner asking if the Council would display a poster advertising the launch of the Private Sector Landlord Property Accreditation Scheme.
- 6.6 An invitation to attend a workshop entitled 'Creating Better Transport'. The Bedfordshire Rural Transport and the Mid Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership together are 'driving' forward with a 'Travelling in Time' workshop. This will be held on Friday 10th December at 9.30 a.m. in Ampthill.
- 6.7 An invitation from the Bedfordshire Funding Advice Bureau to attend a seminar on 'Fundraising and the Law' on 9th December at 9.30 a.m. at The Rufus Centre in Flitwick.
- 6.8 Mid Beds Council Forward Plan – 1st December 2004 to 31st March 2005.
- 6.9 Various Publications:- National Association of Local Council (Annual Review and Accounts 2003/4), Beds C C – Behaviour Support Plan (Revised) Programme of Action, Beds C C - Behaviour Support Plan (Revised) Supporting Information 2004/7, Rural Service Review, Horizon, Local Council Review, Bedfordshire, Local Councils Update, Standards Board for England – Lobby Groups, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct: guidance for members.
- 6.10 'Salting Leaflets' from Beds C C Highways Department.
- 6.11 An invitation to a workshop hosted by JMP Consulting. The topic being 'A new Local Transport Plan For Bedfordshire' and the subjects for discussion will be public transport provision, safety, congestion and accessibility issues.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Environment of 3rd and 17th November 2004.

Services & Maintenance of 10th November 2004.

Finance and Policy of 17th November 2004.

8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. R. Younger.

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This could not be given as no District Councillors were present.

10. ACCOUNTS

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

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public enquired as to why, in the Town Council's opinion, weren't the District Council operating as successfully as South Cambridgeshire District Council in the matter of an Alternate Waste Collection system. Mr. Steeples said he had attended a Waste Strategy Consultation meeting the previous evening and passed on the information he had gathered from that meeting to the resident.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.
