

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2004**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick, Warwick and Holmes, Messrs. Fisher, Gray, Wren, Steeples, Leith, Dear and Coward. County Councillor Mr. Younger, District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Chapman. P. C. N. Battams.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs. Collins, Mr. Wren and Mr. Birt.

At this point in the proceedings the Mayor introduced Mr Steve Whittaker (Contracts Manager at Mid Beds D C) who gave a presentation to those present on the soon to be introduced Alternate Waste Collection system. Mr Whittaker issued an information sheet that contained the most frequently asked questions and a summary of the answers. After the presentation, those present were given time to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding the new system. Mr. Whittaker was thanked for his attendance at the Council Chamber after which he left.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> August were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

It was reported that work has started on the Churchill Way crossing which is now closed to both vehicular traffic and pedestrians alike. As the start date for the work was delayed, it now means that children are back at school and as such will have to use a fairly circuitous route to approach and exit the school. The Headteacher at Robert Bloomfield Middle School has been contacted to ask if he would inform both pupils and parents of this situation and ask them to exercise caution while the works continue.

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor informed members that he had spoken to a representative of Taylor Woodrow who informed him that the work on the Churchill Way crossing was progressing well and is currently on schedule. There have been complaints from residents about the road closure but the works were the subject of a road closure order and there were comments in the local press.

The Fire Station will holding an Open Day on 25<sup>th</sup> September and the Community Safety Group will be handing out 'Mark It' kits as well as providing tea and biscuits in exchange for a donation to the Fire Service Charity. It is hoped that the Mobile Police Office will also be there.

It is hoped that the police will attend the next Community Safety meeting and one of the issues to be considered is 'How can we deal with the speeding problems in Shefford?'

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 A letter has been received from the Community Development Officer at Mid Beds D C regarding an application for Grant Aid in respect of Shefford Community Hall. The letter queried as to why the Town Council had not made a financial contribution to assist this project. The matter is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance & Policy committee on 20<sup>th</sup> October.
- 6.2 A letter from John Pickering and Partners (Solicitors) enquiring if the Council had ever used the services of William J Bushby Ltd in the 1960's. The Council is to reply that do not know this firm.
- 6.3 A copy of a letter to Mrs J.Yarwood (Shefford School Crossing Patrol Officer) from Inspector John Seamarks regarding an offence of Failing to Stop for a school crossing patrol. Mrs Yarwood had previously enquired as to what had happened to the offender. The letter explained that the document accompanying the file had been mislaid and no action had been taken. After discussion with the local beat officer it was decided to verbally warn the driver regarding his driving and future conduct.
- 6.4 A letter from Jonathan Sayeed MP informing members of the details of the Conservative Party's recent consultation paper on mobile phone masts. This is to be fully discussed at the next meeting of the Planning and Environment committee.
- 6.5 An invitation from Councillor Richard G Baker BEM inviting up to three representatives from the Town Council to attend the Annual Reception for Mid Bedfordshire Town and Parish Councils to be held at County Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The letter included a programme of events for the evening. The invitation is to be discussed at the October committee meetings.
- 6.6 An invitation from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity inviting members to a morning study tour. The subject being 'Village Halls – the hub of village life?'
- 6.7 A letter and branded brochure from the Corporate Fundraiser of the Pasque Charity informing members of the availability of the their Christmas Cards. The letter also gave information of the Charity's Open Day on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October – 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
- 6.8 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.
- 6.9 From the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consultations on (1) A Draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees and (2) A review of Restrictions on the Political Activities of Local Authority Employees and Pay of Political Assistants.

6.10 Various Publications:- Flood Action, Local Council Review, Clerks & Councils Direct, Bedfordshire, Local Councils Update, Bedfordshire Heartlands Headlines, Horizon, Bedfordshire & Luton Wildlife Working Group, Health in Heartlands, Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy Panel Report, Bedfordshire Matters, Fieldwork.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

Finance and Policy of 15<sup>th</sup> September

## **7. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This was given by Mr. Younger.

## **8. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

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

## **9. ACCOUNTS**

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

## **10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A request as to the possibility of having a crossing at the point of the Churchill Way bridge under the banner of 'Safer Routes to School'.

A further request as to the possibility of installing an armco in the area adjacent to the Kingfisher Way play area bearing in mind the speed of the traffic and the safety of the children. Clerk to make enquiries to the Highways Department of the County Council.

A question was asked as to whether or not the donation towards the Wanderbus was given automatically every year or should a request be made on an annual basis. It was stated that the donation needed to be applied for each year and a letter from the Wanderbus Committee requesting such a donation should be sent to the Town Council fairly soon as they will shortly be gathering information with regard to formulating their annual precept.

District Councillor Mr. Brown stated that he would make enquiries to the Aragon Housing Association with regard to replacing the recently removed seats in Willow Way.

A question was asked as to how was the recommended donation from the Council to the Robert Bloomfield Middle School in respect of the Multi-Use Hall was to be allocated. It was stated that a shortfall had arisen with regard to the necessary funds required by the school to implement the full works they had hoped for. The Council intended to make a small contribution towards bridging that shortfall in order that the requisite works could be achieved.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.