

Before the commencement of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting there was a presentation from Mr. Barry Easom, Clerk to the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and the Vice Chairman, Mr. Brian E Collier.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21ST JULY 2004

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison and Holmes, Messrs. Gray and Leith.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Steeples and Mr. Wren.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. FENCING – THE MEADS

Mr Cliff Andrews of the Ivel & Ouse Countryside Project had been previously contacted regarding the possibility of him and a team of volunteers being able to erect a fence and gates around the perimeter of The Meads. An e:mail from Mr. Andrews has been subsequently received informing members that he would be prepared to erect a post and wire fence and lead a community hedge planting event. It was thought that such a fence would be considerably cheaper than employing a general contractor for more robust fencing and would also be more ecologically preferable. Mr. Andrews is to be asked to formalise his quotation and present it to members prior to 30th July. The approximate cost of this type of fencing would be £1,300 compared with a fencing contractor's cost of £2,000. A RECOMMENDATION that a fence of this style is the most appropriate and the least expensive is to be made at the next meeting of the full Council.

4. WASTE BIN STICKERS

It has been suggested that 'Kill Your Speed' stickers could be purchased and placed on 'Wheelie-bins'. P C Battams has sought funding from a police organisation in order to help towards the costs of purchase. Unfortunately, however, there will still be a short-fall in the total purchase price of £380. Mid Beds District Council has been approached to see if they are prepared to make up the difference. At the present time they have not responded to this request. A RECOMMENDATION that the Town Council makes up this short-fall is to be made at the next full Council meeting. If monies are eventually received from Mid Beds D C then this can be put to other uses within the town.

5. THANKYOU LETTER – SHEFFORD MAJORETTES

A letter has been received from the Shefford Majorettes thanking the Town Council for their recent donation of £50. The letter further informed members that the majorettes have represented the town for the past 17 years and hoped to continue to do so at any future Summer Fayres and Carnival Parades.

6. APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID – COMMUNITY HALL

District Councillor Birt has received a letter from the Grants and Administration Officer of Mid Beds District Council which he has forwarded on to the Town Council. Among other items, the letter enquires as to whether or not the Town Council supports the proposed project at the Community Hall and has it offered financial support towards it. The Town Council is to respond by informing the Officer that it does support the project but has not offered financial support for this particular project but has assisted financially with other matters appertaining to the Community Hall.

7. SHEFFORD SAINTS F C (Juniors)

A letter from Knowles Benning (Solicitors) has been received informing the Council that a photocopy of the entries on the land register number BD186429 has been sent to the Shefford Saints F C.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 10.25 p.m.
