

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2004

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point the meeting was adjourned to welcome Mr Jim Tombe the Highways and Transport Team Leader of Mid Beds D C who arrived to give a presentation on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. Mr Tombe began by explaining the recent history of the parking system now in force and the role of the Parking Attendants. At the present time there is an allocation of 60 hrs. Attendant time per week is split between 5 zones. The presentation was well received with sufficient time for member's questions. Mr Tombe was thanked for giving up his time to make the presentation and he left at 8.20 p.m.

3. CAR PARK SIGNS – DUCK LANE

It was thought that the existing car park signs directing people to the free town centre car park were not wholly adequate and did not carry sufficient information. It was further noted that there were no signs advising pedestrians of the short cut route from the car park to the town centre. The Highways Department of the County Council are to be asked if they would be prepared to carry out a survey on the area and advise accordingly.

4. CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR

In spite of Notices being placed in the Library, the Town Meeting Room Window and the Post Office, no applications have been received by the Town Council or Mid Bedfordshire District Council to fill the vacancy that arose from the recent resignation of Mr Blake. Procedures are now in place to co-opt to fill the existing vacancy as soon as possible.

5. STANDARD BOARD FOR ENGLAND

To comply with the request that each Committee should be made aware of a Regulation from the Standards Board for England, the following information was given to the Finance & Policy Committee;-

- (1) Registering and declaring membership of the freemasons,
- (2) Registering and declaring membership of a political party council associations.

6. DONATIONS

RECOMMENDED that the following donations be made for the present :-

Bedfordshire Libraries – Children’s Programme	£100
Mid Beds Link- A – Ride	£100

7. CIVIC/COMMUNITY AWARDS

Confirmation has been received from three of the four proposed recipients of the Community Award and also the recipients of the Team Community Award. No reply has yet been received from the proposed recipient of the Civic Award. Clerk to seek confirmation or otherwise from those who have not yet replied.

8. FIDELITY GUARANTEE INSURANCE

Information from the External Auditors has suggested that the Council’s Fidelity Guarantee Insurance may be too low. Although this is only a suggestion and not enforceable, the Council are to investigate the costs of increasing the cover.

9. CLERK – REVIEW

A review of the Clerk’s salary is to be undertaken.

10. TOWN PLAN

The Council’s attention has been drawn to various issues by the Town Plan working party. The issues raised will be discussed by the Council to see what projects they feel are viable and can therefore be supported.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An e:mail has been received from the Chairman of the Saints F C (Juniors) regarding the facilities on the Millenium Green football pitch and the possibility of erecting a converted transport container to use for storage of mowers and strimmers etc. The Chairman is to be informed that although the Council understands that the Club would do their best to disguise the structure, under the terms of the original conveyance relating to the Green, no structures or surfaces are permitted under any circumstances. It was felt that the Club should now do their utmost to deal with the mole problem currently existing on the pitch in order that play can re-commence as swiftly as possible.

RoSPA are to be asked to carry out an inspection of the play equipment at Bellcote Meadow, St. Michael’s Church and Midland Close.

Sue Norman of Beds R C C is to be invited to a committee meeting in order to advise on regulations etc. relating to playgrounds and the equipment installed thereon. Hopefully this will be on 14th April 2004.

Mr Mackin is to prepare ‘phrased questions’ enquiring as to what responsibilities do Developers have during and after completion of a development and are the current controls sufficient. It is hoped that the ‘questions’ can be forwarded to Mr Jonathan Sayeed in order that they can be asked in the House of Commons.

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Further discussion on the width restriction at Churchill Way. It was noted that although a letter received from the Developer covered issues such as lighting and associated lampposts, any mention of the bridge was omitted.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.
