

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

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Mesdames Harrison and Holmes, Mr.Mackin.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Gray and Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. ACTION POINT

A letter from the HBS Communication Team informed members that the 'Action Point' Service will soon cease its operation. This Service had been provided in partnership with District and Town Councils, Community Liason Fora and the County Council but due to the fact that earlier in 2004 Mid Beds District Council withdrew from the partnership, the Service finds that it can no longer carry out its function. However, the HBS Communication Team is now responding to the situation and is negotiating with a number of Councils to re-introduce the service. The costs will have to be carried by the Council in question but can be tailored according to needs and hence the costs involved. It was felt that this had always given good service to the community and so the County Council is to be contacted to enquire as to whether or not the Service can operate from the library as previously. It is still to be determined as to how frequent Action Point surgeries should be held.

4. FUNDING – WANDERBUS

A request for funding to help towards running and maintenance costs of the Whitbread Wanderbus has been received from the Wanderbus Committee secretary. The Finance and Policy Committee, therefore, RECOMMENDS to full Council that the sum of £300 should be awarded accordingly.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was thought that there is a requirement for new chairs to be purchased for the Town Meeting Room. It was suggested that the sum of £250 be RECOMMENDED to full Council for this purpose. The possibility of a new carpet in the TMR or having the current one cleaned is also under discussion.

Consideration is to be given to the possibility that the Town Council might operate the weekly market. It is believed that Ampthill Town Council is currently responsible for their market and so the Clerk for Ampthill Town Council is to be contacted with a view to finding out the necessary requirements. I.e. insurance, provision of stalls etc.

It is RECOMMENDED to full Council that the I T budget should be utilised for the refurbishing of a new computer system and the provision of a fax machine, scanner and photocopier to bring the office facilities in line with current requirements.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.