

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2004

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

None.

At this point Mr. Steeples welcomed Mr Steve Moncrieff, Chairman of the Saints F C (Juniors) and Mr. Robin Beaumont, Treasurer. Several issues were discussed and a provisional date of 15th December was set for further discussions and a progress report. The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID – SHEFFORD COMMUNITY HALL

A letter has been received from the Community Development Officer at Mid Beds District Council enquiring if the Town Council would reconsider it's decision not to offer financial support for the above project. A reply is to be sent informing the Officer that the Town Council had given in the past and had been requested to contribute towards running costs. However, this request had been declined, as it was believed that the Community Hall had to be self-funding. The request for current funding was made after the precept had been set and as the Council only has a small donation budget, the request was declined. It was stated that if an approach were to be made in the future regarding a specific project at the Community Hall and was supported by relevant documentation and information, then the Council would give consideration towards funding or part funding.

4. MBDC – FORWARD PLAN

The above plan for the period 1st October 2004 to 31st January is to be perused by Mr. Steeples who will report back in due course.

5. SHEFFORD SAINTS F C (Juniors)

A letter has been received from Roscoe Symonds Structures offering to issue a report on the playing condition of the football pitch at the Bellcote Meadow. The committee agreed to take up this offer, as the Council's insurers require such a report before football can recommence at this site.

6. KINGFISHER WAY PLAY AREA

A letter has been received from the Play and Open Spaces Officer at Mid Beds District Council asking if the Town Council has considered adopting the Kingfisher Way Play Area. The Committee had previously received maps of the area but never any mention of a commuted sum. Clerk to ascertain details as to exactly which area they are expected to adopt and the appropriate commuted sum as they have no knowledge of how to deal with the flood area that is also marked on the map. The Officer is also to be informed that the Council would require a current safety certificate prior to transfer.

7. PLAY AREA MIDLAND CLOSE

A letter has been received from Knowles Benning enclosing the Transfer Deed and map relating to the play area at Midland Close. The letter asked the Committee to check the declarations enclosed before returning to them for forwarding on to Aragon's solicitors for execution. The Committee studied the Transfer Deed and one or two alterations were required. The document is to be returned to Knowles Benning for amendment and re-issue prior to being signed by the Town Council.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Harrison expressed an interest in the following item and asked if the Town Council were prepared to assist by way of financial support with regard to the repair of a flat seat swing and a seat cradle swing situated at the STMA. Clerk to check if there are sufficient funds in the reserves.

The financial sum in question is £638 which is to be **recommended** to full Council.

Mr. Clements of Clements Leisure Services is to be contacted with regard to the replacing of one or two tiles on the playing surface at the St. Michael's play area and repairing of the lid on the speaking tube.

Bedfordshire Police to be asked if they could carry out a speed and volume survey on Churchill Way after the current crossing repair work has been completed.

The meeting closes at 9.45 p.m.
