

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2004**

PRESENT

Mr. Gray presided over Mrs. Harrison, Messrs. Steeples and Leith.

1. APOLOGIES

Mesdames Holmes and Collins, Messrs. Mackin and Fisher.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

04/02204/FULL

Single storey and rear extension and conservatory to rear.
11 Elgar Drive

No objection.

4. DECISIONS

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

04/01912/FULL

Insertion of roof window to rear elevation
3 Millstream Court.

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

04/01905/FULL

Single storey rear extension and front porch
11 Tippett Drive

5. SITE VISIT – KINGSMEDDE AND OTHER AREAS

E:mail from County Councillor Mr. Robin Younger informing the committee that an officer of the County Council has requested that a site meeting should be arranged with a representative of the committee to view particular areas of the town that the Town Council would like to adopt. Clerk to arrange a mutually agreeable date.

6. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – CHURCHILL WAY

The Chief Engineer of the County Council has replied to a letter from the Town Council requesting a pedestrian crossing to be placed at an appropriate place in Churchill Way. This reply stated that the request will be placed on a list but warned that currently there are 80 requests still outstanding and only 4/5 crossings are

installed per year in the county. A further approach is to be made to see if a crossing can be funded from a 'safer routes to school' budget.

1142 : 12/2004

7. KINGFISHER WAY PLAY AREA

The Play and Outdoor Space Officer at Mid Beds District Council is to be informed that the Town Council would like to adopt the whole grassed area surrounding the immediate play area. Information is still required regarding the commuted sum.

8. LICENCE FOR PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT – STMA and BLACK SWAN P H

A request has been received from the Licensing and Enforcement Officer at Mid Beds D C asking if the committee has any objection to the granting of Licenses for Public Entertainment at the above premises. The committee had no objections.

9. MBDC – BUS SHELTER SCHEME

A letter has been received from the Town Centres and Transport Improvement Team Leader at MBDC informing the committee that the initiatives transport budget was withdrawn in February this year to assist with savings. This has resulted in not having funds available to provide shelters at the current time. The District Council will be looking at whether future funding should be identified for bus shelters when it looks at the Transportation Initiatives report to the Executive Committee on 23rd February 2005. The Town Council was unaware that funding had been withdrawn.

10. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORA

A questionnaire has been received from the Chief Executive at MBDC requesting it's completion by members' who were unable attend the Town & Parish Fora evening on 25th November.

An information pack has been received from the Planning Policy Manager at MBDC which outlines how Towns and Parishes can undertake a Parish Plan for their area. The pack also included a summary of some of the questions raised by those present at the 'questions and answers' session of the MBDC Fora evening of November 25th.

11. PLANNING APPLICATION – 04/02097/FULL

Numerous copies of letters sent to MBDC Planning Department from residents have been received by the Town Council. The letters strongly object to the proposal to provide vehicular access and hardstanding for land to the rear of 87 Clifton Road and 57 Elgar Drive. Two members of the T C's Planning committee have carried out a site visit and the information gleaned plus data from a previous application is to be examined in order to ascertain the implications.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It has been noted that since the Environment Agency carried out work at the weir in October last year, the flow over the weir has changed direction. It now flows across the weir towards the left side (when viewed from the White Hart P H) along The Meads path thus causing erosion of the riverbank at that point. It then veers across to the opposite side. The EA are to be requested to carry out an inspection.

A letter is to be distributed to the occupied units on the industrial estate asking if they would kindly inform their supply vehicles to use Churchill Way as the entry road to that area.

1143 : 12/2004

It has been noted that a company is currently trading at the Business Park in Southbridge Street. Bearing in mind that access to the river will soon be required in order to repair the eroding riverbank in that area, an approach has been made to them as key holders, to ascertain how much longer will they be in occupation. They anticipated that their occupation would last for approximately another three months. It was thought that when they leave the site it will become difficult to gain access to the river bank at that point, as the name of the current land owner has never been established.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.
