

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14TH JULY 2004**

PRESENT

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison and Reddick, Messrs. Mackin, Coward and Fletcher.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. R. Dear.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. BELLCOTE MEADOW CHANGING ROOMS – Broken windows/ Request for keys (re inspection)

A report of three broken windows in the changing rooms has been received. The Council's Insurer's require that an inspection of the changing rooms is carried out. Mr. Wren stated that he had attempted to carry this out some weeks ago but had been unable to gain entry to the building as the key didn't fit. An enquiry was made to the Saints F C as to whether or not the locks had been changed. Their reply stated that the locks had not been changed. As a result of this information, Mr. Wren said he would try again with the same key as before but pointed out that he was not optimistic as he had persevered very positively on the previous occasion without success.

4. STREET SURVEY

The survey of the town's pavement's and street lights is still on going but is anticipated that it will be completed in the next few weeks.

5. GRASS CUTTING

It was decided to review the grass-cutting contract. A map of the appropriate areas is to be compiled and discussions will take place over the next two Service and Maintenance committee meetings. A request is to made to Babbie for a copy of their map : Nos. 1181221/47/48 both sheets – Urban Grass Cutting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A letter from a resident in Lancaster Place has been received regarding the problems caused by skateboarders. The resident is to receive a reply informing him that primarily the problem is the responsibility of the police and all attempts to construct a skatepark in the town have met with opposition from residents. At present there no suitable sights in the town.

A report of debris and flytipping in the area round Midland Close and vegetation growing over the path. It was also noted that there is a similar problem outside the

flats in the High Street. The Aragon Housing Association is to be asked to bring the areas up to standard.

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It was reported that the water leak in Stanford Road has now been repaired. Mrs. Harrison informed the members that she had informed Anglian Water about the leak in Ampthill Road on numerous occasions. It is hoped that it will soon be repaired as the order for the work had been issued by the Authority.

PC Battams is to be contacted about the increase in vehicles parking on the pavements and verges in Ampthill Road.

A report of two trees requiring attention in Stanford Road adjacent to the White Swan Public House and a further report of a log in the river in the same area. Mr. Easom from the Bedfordshire & River Ivel Drainage Board is to be asked about ownership/responsibility of various stretches of the river when he attends the Council Chamber for his presentation to members on 21st July. Enquiries are to be made as to whether or not there are any maps available showing ownership of the riverbank.

Mr. Wren informed members that he would deal with the complaint regarding the trees that overhang the public footpath in the area adjacent to St. Michael's Church.

A report of trees requiring attention in the proximity of 70 Ampthill Road. The County Council is to be asked if they will carry out the necessary remedial action. A further report of a holly tree in a resident's garden also requiring attention. The resident is to be asked if he will attend to it as a matter of urgency as it's overhanging the pathway.

A request is to be made to the County Council for low branches to be trimmed on trees in Bloomfield Drive.

An article from a newspaper regarding gas levels emanating from the Hanson brickworks in Stewartby was brought to the members' attention. Clerk to ascertain the implications for Shefford residents.

A request was made for a dog waste bin to be placed in the Waterside area of the town. Clerk to make enquiries.

Mr Malynn, Strategic Director (Environment), Beds. County Council, is to be asked if he is able to assist with progressing the various landscaping areas in the town that require attention. At the present time it seems that there is a stalemate situation and the Town Council would like these areas to be brought up to standard before they adopt them.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.
