

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 9TH JUNE 2004**

PRESENT

Mr. Fletcher presided briefly over the following members until a new chairman was appointed : Mesdames Harrison, Collins and Rooker, Messrs. Mackin, Coward, Dear and Wren.

1. TO ELECT A 'CHAIR' OF THE COMMITTEE

Proposed Mrs. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Coward and agreed unanimously that Mr. Wren be elected Chairman of the Services and Maintenance Committee. At this point, Mr. Fletcher vacated the 'Chair' and Mr. Wren presided over the rest of the meeting.

2. TO ELECT A 'VICE CHAIR'

Proposed by Mr. Dear, seconded by Mrs. Harrison and agreed unanimously that Mr. Coward be elected Vice Chairman of the Services and Maintenance Committee. Mr. Wren thanked Mr. Fletcher for all his good work on the Services and Maintenance Committee as chairman and further welcomed Ms. Rooker to her first committee meeting as a newly co-opted Councillor.

3. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

5. GRASS-CUTTING – CHURCHILL WAY

Several complaints have been received regarding the lack of grass cutting in Churchill Way. It was stated that the County Council has only recently taken this area over from the Developer. A change of contracts has not yet been negotiated. Clerk to write to the County Council to enquire if they intend to invite the Town Council to adopt the area and if this should be the case, then a new schedule and map would be required. A decision will be made when all relevant information has been received.

6. DOG BYE-LAWS

It is felt that there is a need for the introduction of dog bye-laws in the town. An area under consideration is The Meads. This is deemed to be a play area and as such it was considered that this should possibly be a dog exclusion area. If the Council decides to proceed with this issue, then the perimeter will need to be fenced with a gate at the two exit/entry points. Clerk to investigate the costs, as this will determine whether or not the project can go ahead. A guide on making dog bye-laws in respect of Parish, Town and Community Councils has already been received.

7. ALLOCATION OF STREETS FOR A SURVEY

Mr. Mackin has drawn up a list of all the road names. Members then chose a pertinent area with a view to carrying out a survey of any areas that require attention including street lights that are no longer operating. In order that the results can be categorised to a certain standard by each member, a grading system was introduced. 0 = O.K., 1 = Will need attention in due course, 2 = Potentially dangerous, remedial work required, 3 = Dangerous, a need for instant repair. The numbers on the street lights that are not working are to be recorded.

8. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS –SUGGESTION OF ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER TO BE ADDED TO TOWN COUNCIL’S INSURANCE.

A member of the Christmas Lights Committee has received an exorbitant quote for the renewal of their accident insurance cover. As a result, a committee member has approached the Town Council with a view to seeing if they will add the appropriate cover to the Council’s insurance. The Lights Committee is prepared to pay for any increase in premium but anticipate that a joint insurance will substantially reduce the cost of their individual application. It was thought that the Council couldn’t do this, as the Christmas Lights are not directly a Town Council function. However, a quote on behalf of the Lights Committee is to be sought from Events Insurance Services Ltd and MIA Insurance Services by the Town Council and details forwarded to the Lights Committee.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Report of a loose slab/duct cover outside No 38 High Street and a further loose slab in the High Street adjacent to Duck Lane.

Concerns expressed about speeding vehicles in Amptill Road.

Investigation to be made about a ‘suitcase’ sized speed monitoring machine that has it’s own power source. The equipment can be obtained from the local Police Force.

A note that the School Patrol sign has at least partially removed from outside 37 Amptill Road.

Reports of several overgrown areas ; 1.) the pathway between Hitchin Road and Maple Drive. 2.) Bedford Road and Lucas Way. 3.) Osborn Crescent and Amptill Road.

An observation of vehicles speeding side by side along the Clifton Road. P C Battams to be contacted.

The large pothole outside No. 17 Ivel Road is becoming worse on a day by day basis. Report to the Highways Department of the County Council that the previous in-fill has been inappropriately compacted and to further inform them that this pothole is already subject to a litigation issue.

The School Patrol Officer is still receiving verbal abuse from some motorists and states she constantly feels in fear of being run over. A letter to be written to P C Battams informing him of the situation. A further letter is to sent to the Chief Constable enquiring as to why nothing is being done to help safeguard the School Patrol Officer when numerous letters have been written to him in the past asking for help.

An observation that the 'No Cycling Signs' are missing from Church Walk. Enquiries to be made.

A request from Mr. Wren asking if anybody is available to help with the Parade on Sunday 13th June between 11.30 p.m. and 12.30 p.m.

The Shefford Saints F C is to be asked for a key in order that the changing rooms can be inspected. The key previously supplied to the Town Council appears not to work.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.
