

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th OCTOBER**

PRESENT

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison, Warwick and Reddick.

1. APOLOGIES

Ms. Rooker, Messrs. Coward, Dear and Fletcher. Late apologies also received from Mr. Mackin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MID BEDS ANNUAL RECEPTION

Further to the letter from Councillor Richard G Baker BEM, Mrs. Warwick stated that she would also like to attend the reception. Clerk to make booking accordingly.

4. WASTE STRATEGY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

A letter has been received from a representative of the Bedfordshire Authorities Waste Partnership of the County Council informing members that they are carrying out a detailed public consultation exercise as part of the process of producing a county wide Waste Management and Recycling Strategy. The letter went on to say that during November there will be a series of public meetings to discuss the policies by which the partnership will take forward waste management and recycling services over the next decade. Formal invites will be distributed in due course but in the interim, the Partnership will be holding workshops to explore key issues and nominations to attend from Town/Parish Councils are requested. It is hoped that two members from the Town Council will be able to attend.

5. A G M - BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the above Association will take place on Wednesday 20th October at 7.30 p.m. at Whipsnade Village Hall. Unfortunately none of the members present felt they were able to attend.

6. FENCING – THE MEADS

The newly erected field gate at the entry point of The Meads has been vandalised. Mr Cliff Andrews of the Ivel & Ouse Countryside Project has effected a temporary repair but a more permanent job is still required. Mr Andrews suggested that a local carpenter could probably mend the gate but thought that overall a new gate would be cheaper in the long run. The Committee decided that the latter idea was the best option and Mr Andrews is to be contacted accordingly.

7. VERDANT – QUOTE FOR WORKS

It has been previously Minuted that Cleanaway Ltd are withdrawing their litter clearance services from the Shefford area as their new location is now some distance from the town. They have suggested that the Council should apply to Verdant for a quote. This was done some time ago and a quote has now been received. However, the figures for the work required in the three areas of the town seem somewhat excessive and so additional quotes are to be sought. In the interim, Mrs. Warwick stated that in the event of complaints being received about debris accumulating in these areas she would be prepared to assist in general litter clearance.

8. MINOR WORKS IN TOWNS AND PARISHES

A letter has been received from County Councillor Richard Payne regarding the above. Mr Payne noted that it was sometimes difficult to employ someone to undertake small jobs in the town/parish due to factors such as PAYE, insurance and health and safety. However, he stated that he had contacted Raynesway and they have intimated that they would be more than happy to undertake any suitable work. Bearing this in mind, Mr. Payne's letter asked if Shefford Town Council would be interested in participating in such a scheme. The committee thought this to be a good idea and will inform Mr. Payne accordingly. This was also thought to be an ideal opportunity to contact Raynesway about the required litter clearance as previously quoted by Verdant.

9. GRASSCUTTING

This is to be deferred to the next Services and Maintenance Committee meeting in November.

10. ROADS SURVEY

It was thought that nearly all the roads in the town have now been surveyed and the next move is to collate the information on to a master document.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A report of the top of a litter bin missing adjacent to No 51 Amptill Road.

A letter to be sent to Mid Beds District Council requesting that the area outside the Kebab shop in the High Street be steam-cleaned as it has become both messy and slippery.

It was reported in "Bedfordshire" that 'window envelopes' should not be placed in the recycling bin. Clerk to ascertain if this is in fact the case and to also enquire as to whether or not there is a definitive list of recyclable material.

Mr Wren reported that he has received a message from a resident about branches from a willow tree causing a potential blockage to the river flow. The resident stated that the area was in the vicinity of 'riverside' but it was thought that this could either be in the Bedford Road or Clifton Road area of the town. Mr. Wren said he would find out the exact location and report back.

Another resident also reported to Mr. Wren that he had spoken to youths in the Duck Lane car park about the noise created by them while playing football. He suggested that they would be better off playing their game in The Meads. However, one of the youths stated that they wouldn't go there as they had been harassed by older youths pestering them to buy drugs. It is not known if in fact this is the case but P C Battams is to be asked if he could carry out an investigation when he is next in the area.

It was suggested that when the Town Council carried out a survey of street signs owned by them, it would be a good idea to note that any signs appertaining to 'Riverside' should also show that a licence is required to fish along that area of the river.

A report of two manhole covers outside the Black Swan public house that have now worn smooth due to constant traffic driving over them thus causing a particular hazard to two-wheeled vehicles.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.
