

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Warwick and Mr. Coward and Mr. Barham.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3. CLEANSING SERVICES – CLEANAWAY

Cleanaway have advised that they will no longer be providing their street cleaning service for Mid Bedfordshire Council. A new contractor called Verdant will be taking over the operation and from October the nearest Cleanaway site to Shefford will be at Letchworth. As this will necessitate an increase in costs to the Council, it was decided to contact Verdant for a quotation.

4. BEDFORDSHIRE BUS SERVICE REVIEW

The Town Council has received a letter from the County Council informing them that JMP Consulting has been commissioned to assist with a review of the supported bus services in various parts of the county. JMP are to be informed that the current level of service must be maintained including a Sunday service. Additional services would be welcomed, particularly a service to Milton Keynes and further comments will follow when the public has been consulted.

5. BRAF / EEDA

An invitation from the Bedfordshire Rural Affairs Forum informing members of a free one-day event for parish/town councils to be held at Shuttleworth College, Old Warden Park. The general aim of the event is to debate the key challenges facing rural Bedfordshire as well as offering an opportunity to meet rural grant funders and service providers. Ms. Rooker stated that she would like to attend.

6. STREET SURVEY

It was stated that the street survey is progressing. There were still some roads to be assessed and these were allocated.

7. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS

A map has been received from the County Council informing the Council of the areas they would like them to adopt in respect of grass cutting. It was agreed to take on these areas and the contractor is to be asked to quote accordingly.

8. ALTERNATE WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM

The Town Council has written letters of objection to the changes on behalf of the community but now feels that a petition should be raised by the public which they would support. The Town Council is to write a letter to MBDC asking them to reconsider their decision due to the ground swell of public opinion.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Reports of an increase in anti social behaviour. Observations of young people loitering in the streets generally with particular youth problems in Churchill Way – i.e. noise, cars racing and fences damaged. The residents are to be advised that they should report incidents to the police and if possible to note vehicle registration numbers. It was thought that the escalation was due to a lack of youth provision in the town. There is no longer a youth worker for Shefford. Clerk to contact the County Youth Service to enquire when the town can expect this situation to be remedied and what provision do they intend to make for the youth of Shefford.

It was reported that the light outside the Chinese takeaway still isn't working and has never worked properly since it's installation. Clerk to write to the Lighting Engineer at the County Council to request a full explanation.

The newly installed field gate at The Meads has been damaged. Mr. Cliff Andrews of the Ivel Countryside project is to be contacted to see if he can effect a repair.

The condition of the Town Council owned signs is to be reviewed as some may need refurbishing or replacing.

A report of a blocked drain outside No 7 North Bridge Street. This was partly cleared but still needs 'jetting'. County Councillor Mr. Younger has been asked to deal with it.

N.B. Mr. Carofalo of Raynesway Construction Southern informed the clerk that 'jetting' had been carried out on 14th September.

The District Council is to be asked if a litterbin can be provided outside the kebab shop as litter is always accumulating in the area.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.
