

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2005

PRESENT

Mrs. Harrison presided over Mesdames Holmes, Warwick and Reddick, Messrs. Gray, Fisher, Coward, Leith, Steeples and Wren.
District Councillor Mr. Chapman. P C Battams was present for part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Ms. Rooker, Mr. Mackin, County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillors Messrs. Birt and Brown.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2005 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

Mr. Wren informed those present that will be a meeting to discuss the VJ Day celebrations and the Summer Fayre at 7.30 p.m. on the 28th February in the Council Chamber.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The full Council meeting designated for March will actually take place on 1st April due to the regular date of the last Friday in the month being Good Friday.

Volunteers still required for the issuing of 'bus passes which will take place on 20th April from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

The Shefford Scouts fulfilled their task of delivering Issue 40 of Shefford Newline to the residents and businesses of Shefford.

Mrs. Harrison informed members that the proposed site meeting at the Bedford Road crossing did take place on 24th February. The meeting was felt to be of a positive nature confirming the belief that vehicles do approach the crossing at speeds in excess of 30 m.p.h. Bearing in mind that it does appear that there are safety measures to be tackled at this crossing, the Clerk is to contact the County Council's Safety Officer to ask if the crossing should be closed as members had concerns about their duty of care.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Community Crime Intelligence Trend Sheets-Issues 5, 6, 7 and 8.

6.2 Recorded Nuisance Incidents- January 2005-02

- 6.3 Letter from the Minerals and Waste Planning Officer of the County Council informing members that on January 24th 2005 they and Luton Borough Council adopted the Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 6.4 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan – 1st March 2005 to 30th June 2005
- 6.5 Information from Bedfordshire County Council relating to a temporary 10 mph and 40 mph Speed Limit – Shefford Road, Stanford. This will last for five days overall between Monday 28 February and Saturday 26 March but will only be in operation when necessary signs are erected on site.
- 6.6 Notification of a Proposed Temporary Speed Restriction on the A507 Shefford. The length affected will be 40 mph for 2.6k in an easterly direction from roundabout with A600 to roundabout with Hitchin Road and is to enable the installation of signing to be carried out in safety. Date: from 14th March to 21st March.
- 6.7 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environment Quality informing members that Defra has formally introduced the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill on 7th December 2004. The letter also included a brief resume on the main topics namely :- Crime & Disorder, Litter, Waste, Graffiti & fly-posting, Noise and Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles.
- 6.8 A missive from B:DAT (Bedfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team) inviting members to attend a Community Advisory Panel for Mid Bedfordshire on 25th April, 10.00 a.m. at the District Council Offices in Ampthill.
- 6.9 An invitation from the BRCC to attend a free training course for voluntary and community organisations at their offices in Cardington. Each course will be held over two days. Course one will be held on 26th April and 24th May and a second identical course will be held on 10th May and 7th June.
- 6.10 A letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister enclosing two discussion documents. 1). Citizen Engagement and Public Services : Why Neighbourhoods Matter 2). Vibrant Local Leadership.
- 6.11 Various publications :- Local Council Review, Issue 79 of Network from the BRCC, Local Councils Update, The Playing Field,

7. POLICE REPORT

This was given by PC N Battams

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted:

Planning and Environment of 2nd and 16th February 2005

Services and Maintenance of 9th February 2005

Finance and Policy 16th February 2005

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of County Councillor Mr. Younger. However, information received from Mr. Younger by e:mail was read out to those present.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Chapman.

11. ACCOUNTS

The Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A question from a local resident regarding the possibility of introducing a weight restriction limit of 7.5 ton for lorries entering the town. It was explained to the resident that this request had been made to the County Council on previous occasions but their replies had informed the Town Council that this was deemed to be 'unworkable'. Mr. Mackin explained that there were concerns about speed and traffic flow in the town and as such road surveys had been recently undertaken. At the present time he was awaiting the results.

Concerns were raised about parking in front of the Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.
