

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2005

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Reddick, Messrs. Fisher, Coward, Dear, Steeples, Leith, Fletcher and Wren. County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillors Mr. Brown and Mr. Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Warwick, Ms. Rooker, Mr. Gray, District Councillor Mr. Birt and PC N. Battams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17th December 2005 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mackin requested the help of Councillors' to assist with the issuing of free bus passes to eligible members' of the public. The proposed date is Wednesday 20th April between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. The cost of a bus journey anywhere in the Mid Beds area is to be 50p per journey and this charge will stand for two years.

Help is also required to assist with running both the Summer Fayre in June and VJ Day celebrations later in the year.

Volunteers are also required to investigate and set up a management group to investigate the possible running of the Town market.

Mr. Mackin pointed out that March's meeting of the full Council will have to be held on April 1st due to that the fact that the usual assigned date for March will be Good Friday.

It was thought to be a good idea to issue 'passes' for Councillors. Mr. Mackin said he would be able to produce them but members' would need to supply a passport type photograph of themselves. If this was not possible then Mr. Mackin said he was prepared to take photographs with a digital camera.

The Shefford Lions are no longer able to deliver Shefford Newline to the residents' of Shefford. Delivery of the next issue will now be made by the Scout Group. The Clerk is to write to the Lions on the Council's behalf to thank them for their excellent service over the years.

Mr. Mackin reminded members' that nominations for the Civic and Community Awards should be received by 24th February.

Members' attention was also drawn to the fact that 2005 will be the first year in which an award is to be made to both the 'Best Male' and 'Best Female' resident in the town. In general the criteria for the award is somebody who gives of their time unstintingly and without financial gain to the well-being of others whether this is in an organising or caring capacity. Nominations for these two categories should be received by early April if possible.

It should be noted that the date for the Finance & Policy Committee meeting should read 16th February and not 23rd February as shown on some documentation.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Recorded Crime Incidents for Shefford – December 2004.
- 6.2 A request by e:mail from Pasque Harmony enquiring if there are any suitable venues whereby a choral recital can be held. The e:mail informed members' that any monies raised would go directly to the Pasque Charity which offers support to the families whose children are not expected to survive into their adult years.
- 6.3 Information regarding a County Funding Fayre to be held on Thursday 10th March at the Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square, Bedford.
- 6.4 An invitation to a fundraising workshop organised by the Bedfordshire Funding Advice Bureau. The workshop is to be held at the Bedford Centre for Voluntary Services at 43 Bromham Road, Bedford on 16th March from 7 - 9 p.m.. There will be a charge is £5 per delegate.
- 6.5 An appeal has been received from the British Heart Foundation asking for volunteers to find homes for Koala bears on Valentine's Day and also to host a raffle.
- 6.6 A letter from the Affordable Houses Co Ltd enquiring if there is a requirement for affordable housing in the area.
- 6.7 Mid Beds Forward Plan for the period 1st February to 31st May 2005.
- 6.8 Various publications:- Funding Times, East of England Market Towns Newsletter, NHS Heartlands 'Headlines', Youth News, Local Councils Update, Mid Beds Flooding Guide 2005, Clerks & Councils Direct, Horizon, Bedfordshire, Local Council Review.

7. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of PC Battams.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted:

Planning and Environment of 5th and 19th January 2005

Services and Maintenance of 12th January 2005

Finance and Policy of 19th January 2005

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Younger.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Brown and Mr. Chapman.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A concern has been received from a resident regarding the safe-keeping and storage of some photographs she has which depict V E Day events.

Information has been sought regarding the future of the Old Lower School. At the present time it is thought that the school will be used to accommodate the excess number of pupils anticipated at the current lower school.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.
