

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 1ST APRIL 2005

Prior to the commencement of the full Council meeting, members assembled in the Town Meeting to officially receive the trophies and Mayor's pendant from Town Councillor Mr. Peter Fisher and his wife. The Mayor thanked them both for their generous donation and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the other Town Council members for their generosity.

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Holmes, Warwick, Holmes, Reddick, Messrs. Gray, Steeples, Dear, Coward, Wren. Fisher and Fletcher, County Councillor Mr. Younger.

1. APOLOGIES

Ms. Rooker, Mr. Leith, District Councillors Messrs. Birt, Brown and Chapman, PC N Battams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2005 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

It was noted that the signage directing traffic to the industrial area was still inadequate.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor officially informed members that the Mayor's chain, pendant and trophies have now been handed over to the Town Council and thanked Councillor Fisher and his wife for these gifts which will be used for many years to come. Bearing this in mind, the Mayor informed members that two of the trophies need nominations-namely a male and a female member of the community who is judged to have contributed most to the community during the last twelve months. Any nominations should be forwarded to the Finance and Policy Committee.

The Mayor also underlined the need for volunteers to help with the issuing of bus passes on April 20th.

Mr. Mackin also reiterated the need for a working party to be set up to investigate the possibility of running of the town's weekly market and possibly farmer's markets in the future. He suggested that each committee should nominate one person to form a group.

Mr. Mackin informed members that he had attended a preliminary meeting with members of Beds Police and other Town/Parish councils to look into 'share-funding' of a Police Community Support Officer. It was deemed to be a useful meeting and a full report will be given to the next Finance and Policy committee meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Community Crime Intelligence Trend Sheets – Issues 9,10,11,12 and 13.
- 6.2 Watch Wide News – Spring edition – Bedfordshire Police.
- 6.3 Recorded Crime Incidents February 2005
- 6.4 CD-ROM from 'DEFRA' entitled 'Partnerships in rolling out broadband to communities'
- 6.5 CPRE Bedfordshire – Acting Chairman's Annual Report 2004
- 6.6 Report from CPRE on their recent open meeting: '*Bedfordshire: What's in Store?*' held at the Rufus Centre in Flitwick.
- 6.7 Notice of the 18th Annual General Meeting of CPRE to be held at Bromham Village Hall on Wednesday 6th April at 7.30 p.m.
- 6.8 An invitation to attend a fund raising workshop at the Rufus Centre on June 7th from 10. 00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the Rufus Centre in Flitwick. A charge of £5 per delegate will apply.
- 6.9 An invitation from the Bedfordshire Funding Advice Bureau to attend a workshop on 10th May (7pm to 9pm) at the premises of the Bedford Centre for Voluntary Services at 43 Bromham Road, Bedford. The subject is 'Making a Good Application'.
- 6.10 Summary Report of Conference 5th October 2005 – What Future Rural Bedfordshire?- *East of England Development Agency/Bedfordshire Rural Affairs Forum.*
- 6.11 Information from DEFRA acknowledging the enthusiasm shown by quality town/parish councils for the Quality Parish Investment Fund and the need for councils to acquire 'quality' status.
- 6.12 Various publications :- Funding Times, Bulletin 23 – Standards Board for England, Fieldwork (CPRE), Local Councils Update, Clerks and Councils Direct, Youth News, Bedfordshire Heartlands 'Headlines', Horizon, Bedfordshire, A Code for the Future-(Standards Board for England).
- 6.13 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan – 1st April 2005 to 31st July 2005.
- 6.14 Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils – Constitution.

7. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of P C Battams. However, Mr. Mackin read out statistics appertaining to nuisance incidents. He further pointed out that using the same method of reporting that the police use, 73% of reported incidents occurred in the Somerfield store area of the town. Somerfield's Head Office is to be contacted to enquire as to what their strategy is for dealing with this kind of behaviour on their premises.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 2nd and 16th March 2005

Services and Maintenance of 9th March 2005

Finance and Policy of 16th March 2005

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Younger.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of the District Councillors.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.
