

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2005

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Mrs. Harrison, Messrs. Mackin, Wren and Coward.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes and Mr. Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point the Committee welcomed Mr. Andrew Boatwright who arrived to discuss matters appertaining to the previous Clerk's salary and gratuity.

3. PREVIOUS CLERK'S SALARY/GRATUITY

Information received from the Association of Town and Parish Councils at Cardington was discussed by the Committee in order to progress the issues surrounding the previous clerk's salary and gratuity.

4. LAND ADJACENT TO WATERSIDE

An e:mail has been received from a resident regarding a request to plant a Pyracanthus hedge adjacent to her property. A further request to plant Juniperas Horizontalis conifer (in the area close to the fence has also been received due to the fact that the grass hasn't grown there after the removal of some scrub which had been planted some years previously. The Committee is to reply that as the land is still owned by the Town Council then no planting can take place. If the resident wishes to purchase the area in question then it will have to be valued by the District Valuer after which the resident will be contacted to see if the proposed price is agreeable.

5. CRIMINAL DAMAGE - THE MEADS

A letter has been received from the Crimes Desk Investigator of Bedfordshire police informing the committee of the procedures and actions in place for dealing with the recent vandalism at The Meads.

6. REPAIRS TO PLAY AREAS – MIDLAND CLOSE/ST MICHAEL'S

An inspection of the Midland Close and St. Michael's Way Play Areas has revealed that the surface tiles have 'lifted' and are in dire need re-gluing and grouting otherwise the surface will not perform the safety function for which it was originally installed. The Council is to ask the Play Ground Inspector to carry out the repair as a matter of extreme urgency before a serious accident occurs.

7. TRANSPORT TOKEN – FUNDING

Information has been received from the Youth Participation Officer at Mid Beds D C informing the committee of Sandy's Action Youth's AGM at Sandy Youth Centre on 11th May from 4 – 6 p.m.

8. SIGNAL CRIMES FOR MID BEDS COMMUNITIES

The Committee has received a form from Bedfordshire Police asking if they would complete a questionnaire regarding the crimes that cause most concern. After some discussion, it was decided that the Clerk should complete the form and return accordingly.

9. ADOPTION OF PLAY AREAS – KINGFISHER ROAD/CHURCHILL WAY

Figures have been received from a Planning Assistant at the District Council regarding the possible adoption by the Town Council of both the Kingfisher Way and Churchill Way play areas. The figures were deemed acceptable but Clements Play Management is to be requested to carry out an inspection to see if there are any matters requiring attention prior to adoption.

10. RENT REVIEW – COUNCIL CHAMBER

New information containing a revised rent figure has been received from the landlord's agent which was fully discussed by the Committee. The increased amount of £213.28 per annum is to be RECOMMENDED to full Council.

11. REPORT OF MEETING RE THE FUNDING OF A PCSO

Mr. Mackin informed the committee that he had attended a meeting on 21st March regarding the above. The meeting was also attended by several other Parish Council representatives and the Divisional Commander of Bedfordshire Police. This was a tentative enquiry into the various issues surrounding the possibilities of such funding and Mr. Mackin stated that there were many questions still to be answered before any conclusions could be reached.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Harrison informed the committee that the removal of the old play equipment and installation of the new equipment at the STMA was imminent.

It was decided that the Town Council would have a stall at the forthcoming Summer Fayre on June 12th.

Investigations are to be made into the possibilities of the Council raising money quickly for any large purchases they may wish to make over the next five years or so particularly in respect of any building which may be more conducive to public accessibility.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.
