

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH JANUARY

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. THE LOCAL CHANNEL

Information has been received from 'The Local Channel' offering advice on websites, Freedom of Information Act etc. Mr. Steeples said he would study the document to see if it would be of assistance to the Council and report back.

4. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

A resume of the main features of the Freedom of Information Act has been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The document was copied and distributed to those present for their perusal. Additional copies are to be issued to other members.

5. HEARING LOOP - DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT

A leaflet containing information on hearing loop systems has been received. To be filed in case of 'take-up' at a future date.

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS – CLERK

Information regarding Terms and Conditions in respect of the Town Clerk has been received from the National Association of Local Councils. These are to be implemented on 1st April 2005. Mr. Coward informed members that he would study them and report back in due course.

7. BRCC – DELEGATED FUND

Following a presentation by a representative of the BRCC, information has now been received regarding an application for transport funding for youths. However, after considerable discussion it was decided not to complete the form as it was suspected that the main reason for which the funds were made available would soon cease. Primarily due to very little 'take-up' on the offer of transport to the Xscape at Milton Keynes. It was also thought highly unlikely that the transport route would be extended to cover Shefford but would cease at Maulden. The documentation is to be passed on to another non-Council committee to see if they would like to make an application.

8. TOWN PLAN

Examples of the work of three printing/publishing companies were distributed to members. Quality and cost were discussed bearing in mind the grant from the Countryside Agency to cover the production of a Town Plan.

It was RECOMMENDED to full Council that 'Out of the Bleu' should receive the contract for the sum of £3140. It should be noted that although members thought that overall their work was of a generally higher quality and finish it was also the cheapest. As soon as the names of the companies were read out, prior to discussion, the clerk declared an interest.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Notification that the bottle bank adjacent to Somerfield's Store is full.

Mr. Wren informed members that the date for the Summer Fayre/Carnival was June 12th and said that volunteers were always welcome to come and help.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.
