

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th JULY 2005

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Steeples and Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. COMMUTED SUM – ADOPTION OF LUCAS WAY PLAY AREA FROM THE ARAGON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

A representative from the Aragon Housing Association telephoned to say that they would like to continue with the process of offering the Town Council the opportunity to adopt the Lucas Way play area. They have requested that the Town Council provides them with a figure by way of an appropriate commuted sum.

4. COMBINED INSURANCE – SUMMER FAYRE/CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It has been suggested that the insurance costs incurred on the above could be reduced if they were amalgamated rather than insured separately. Both the Town Council's insurer's and the company responsible for the insurance of the last two Summer Parade's are to be contacted to see if such a possibility exists. They are also to be asked for any insurance advice that would minimise the costs of cover. A contractor who is believed to have the appropriate documentation and is also thought to assist other communities in the erection of Christmas lights is to be contacted.

5. COMPUTER / FAX / SCANNER

Further enquiries as to made as to costs and appropriate software in respect of the above. It was also thought necessary to update the office photocopier.

6. MID BEDFORDSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The above organisation has sent the committee a copy of their Annual Report 2004/5. They have offered to come and talk to the committee about the work they do and also asked if consideration could be given to a request for a financial contribution bearing in mind they are a registered charity.

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – 2004/5

Copies of the Annual Accounts for 2004/5 were issued to the committee for their perusal and comment.

The accounts as issued are to be RECOMMENDED to full Council.

8. CONTRACT CLERK

Discussions took place regarding a new contract for the clerk which is to keep in line with the recent nation-wide negotiations between the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. A new contract has been drawn-up which will be discussed in camera.

9. SALARY - CLERK

Discussions also took place regarding the clerk's salary. Again this is to keep in line with new legislation introduced by NALC and the SLCC. Final discussions are to take place in camera.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wren informed members that the preparations for the V J Day celebrations were going very well with lots of enthusiasm being shown. However, information from Home Front Recall—the organisation to which application was made for a grant – states that the grant money may not be made available until one week before the event. Bearing this in mind it is RECOMMENDED to full Council that the amount of the grant be underwritten by the Town Council in case it should be late or fail.

Mr. Mackin informed members that he had sent letters to those clubs/societies etc. responsible for the sale of alcohol asking them to exercise caution when selling alcohol to younger persons who are unable to provide proof of age and where there is a degree of doubt about their age.

Information about the possible introduction of Alcohol Free Zones is to be sought from the Licensing Manager at the District Council. Initially the areas in question would be The Meads, the STMA and the Millenium Green. It is believed that the local Beat Manager would be in favour of such a move.

Mr. Mackin informed members that he had recently attended a presentation on the Police Plan. Although the meeting was informative, a lot of the issues were inevitably of a constantly recurring nature.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.
