

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Messrs. Mackin and Gray.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. FUNDING – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

A letter has been received from a member of the Shefford Lights Committee requesting a financial contribution towards the necessary insurance costs required for the erection of the annual Christmas Lights. The committee was sympathetic to their plight but felt that they needed exact details of the insurance cover required. The Lights Committee is also to be asked if they have considered using the services of an appropriate contractor or alternatively if they know of a professional electrician that would be prepared to assist them and who would presumably have his own insurance cover for climbing ladders. A suggestion was made as to whether or not using the services of a qualified electrician for essential work only and paying an hourly rate may not be as expensive as the requisite full insurance cover. It was felt that if the need for volunteers to climb ladders was eliminated, then the insurance costs would be considerably cheaper. The Lights Committee is to be contacted accordingly.

**4. MEMBERS REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Monitoring Officer of Mid Beds District Council has contacted the Council to remind them that it is deemed good practice for Councillors to carry out an annual review of their forms relating to declaration of interests. The Committee decided to issue a copy of the latest Member's Declaration of Financial and Other Interests form to all Councillors for completion which will subsequently be returned to the Monitoring Officer.

**5. FUNDING – VICTIM SUPPORT**

An application for a financial donation has been received from Victim Support Bedfordshire.

It is RECOMMENDED to full council that the sum of £200 be donated accordingly.

**6. SIGNATURES – INCOME BOND**

National Savings and Investments have been contacted to inform them of the Council's present mailing address. A reply has now been received informing members that four authorised signatories are required in order that their records can be amended. It was decided that the form enclosed with reply should be signed by the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Chair of Finance & Policy and the Clerk

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was reported that police enforcement action in the Robert Bloomfield Middle School area had resulted in vehicles not parking within 10 metres of the junction. Beds police are to be contacted to see if a '10 metre enforcement' can be applied to the Purcell Way/Clifton Road junction.

An enquiry was made as to whether or not the Committee would be prepared to cover a possible small financial shortfall in the current P3 funding. The Committee said they would give the matter their consideration when the total amount of shortfall had been established.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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