

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2005**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick and Mr. Dear.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point Mr. Wren introduced Mr. Steve Whittaker, the Contract Services Manager at the District Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters surrounding the transfer the ownership of the town's public convenience from the District Council to the Town Council. Mr. Whittaker explained that the D C has resolved to divest itself of all the eight public conveniences for which it has a responsibility. This would mean that both the ownership of the building and the entirety of the land on which it stands would be passed to the Town Council at no cost to them.

It is RECOMMENDED to full Council that the Town Council acquires the full ownership rights of the public conveniences.

3. GRASS-CUTTING CONTACTS

Mr. Mackin informed the members that he was now ready to colour copy the grass-cutting 'master plan' which would then be distributed to contractors in due course. The possibility of aligning the Town Council's requirements with the District Council's contractor may be considered in the near future.

4. ROADS SURVEY

The roads survey is almost ready for forwarding to the Highways Department of the County Council.

5. PRECEPT

The precept in respect of the Services and Maintenance committee was established and as such is RECOMMENDED to full Council.

6. UNDERPASS – FORMER RAF CHICKSANDS SITE

Confirmation has been received from the Team Leader, Major Projects of the District Council that there are no proposals to provide an underpass on the A507 opposite the new Mid Beds D C offices. However, the letter indicated that should further residential development be promoted upon the existing RAF Chicksands site (Annington Homes site) there is the potential that a physical crossing (either under or over pass) of the A507 may become necessary. It is understood that following the withdrawal of the previous planning application no further application has been submitted to the Authority. The Town Council is to reply that the situation is totally unsatisfactory and shows a total lack of concern for public safety as pedestrian access to the D C offices will be extremely hazardous.

7. TOWN PLAN UPDATE

Pages 25 of the Town Plan brochure were discussed at length with a view to updating any relevant information under the headings of : Environment, Work & Training, Crime and Traffic. It is anticipated that updated information relating to the Town Plan will be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting in April. There is an awareness that vehicle parking on the pavement has become more prevalent, particularly in Ampthill Road. Overall it was felt that this issue should be added to the Town Plan.

8. LIFE EXPECTATION – PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Play Area Inspector has forwarded information to the members regarding the life expectancy of the existing items of play equipment. Bearing in mind that some of the equipment only has a life expectancy of 1 to 3 years, it was deemed prudent to set up a fund towards the overall costs of replacement of some items of equipment. Brochures have been received from equipment manufacturers and the indications are that new play equipment can be very expensive.

9. LATEST PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

A further month's play area inspection reports have been received from the contractor. These were read out and any remedial works required were noted accordingly.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The recently installed street light in New Street is still not connected to a power supply.

A report that the bollards in Ampthill Road need either cleaning or a higher wattage bulb installed as the light that currently emanates from them is somewhat poor.

The street light adjacent to the Kingfisher Way play area isn't working.

The overhead barrier at Duck Lane Car Park requires a padlock.

Mid Beds D C to be contacted re 'leaning/broken bollards' in the High Street Enhancement Area.

The Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.
