

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2005**

PRESENT

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames, Harrison, Rooker and Reddick, Messrs. Mackin, Fletcher and Dear.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. STREET SURVEY

The street survey is close to completion with one or two roads still to be surveyed including Amphill Road.

4. GRASS CUTTING

The grass cutting maps are now almost complete and it was decided to place advert in the Beds on Sunday, The Comet and The Advertiser inviting contractors to tender for the grass cutting contract.

5. PLAY AREA MANAGEMENT

A quotation has been received from Clements Play Management Ltd offering to maintain and inspect the three play areas for which the Town Council has responsibility. The package offers such items as weekly visual inspections, site cleanse and litter removal, report and logging of all reports, annual ROSPA or equivalent inspections with reports and a compliant EN1176/1177 management system. The quotation is for £22 per week, per site.

This figure is RECOMMENDED to full Council.

6. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT – SHEFFORD BUSINESS PARK

An e;mail has been received from the Play and Open Space Officer at MBDC informing members of the size of play area the developer anticipates to include in respect of the proposed development of 61 dwellings at the Shefford Business Park. The developer is seeking to put only a LAP (100 sqm for toddlers) play area on the development and give the remaining Play provision as an off-site contribution to the Town Council for play area improvements. In the Officers opinion a development of this size should provide a LEAP (400sqm for 5-10+ year olds) and further suggests that this is actually the type, size and age group where Shefford lacks provision. The Committee agreed with the Officer's thoughts and will pass that information on to her accordingly. Other aspects concerning the Pre-Application information such as proximity to the river are to be referred to the Planning and Environment Committee next Wednesday.

7. AMEY INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES LTD – HIGHWAY SERVICES

Members of the Planning and Environment Committee had previously requested more information from Amey Infrastructure Services Ltd regarding the general topics for which they wanted input from the Town Council. This has now been received and a detailed response is to be sent to them accordingly.

8. EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

An invitation has been received from the County Council enquiring if any members would like to attend a presentation on the East of England Plan. Mr. Mackin had previously stated at the Planning and Environment Committee meeting that he would attend on February 10th if work commitments allowed. As no further representatives could be found from this Committee, then the form is to be returned to the County Council nominating Mr. Mackin as the Council's only representative.

9. EAST OF ENGLAND MARKET TOWNS NETWORK

A request has been received from the East of England Development Agency enquiring if members would like to receive news and details of events, funding streams and other issues pertinent to the regeneration of market towns. The Committee is to reply that they would be pleased to receive any relevant material that's on offer.

10. INVOICE – VERDANT GROUP Plc – REFUSE COLLECTION – PLAY AREAS

In October 2004, Cleanaway Ltd, who had previously maintained litter collection in the three play areas in the town, stated that they were no longer able to carry out the operation and recommended that the Town Council should apply to Verdant plc for a quotation to carry out the work. However, the quote supplied was deemed to be far too expensive and the quotation was not accepted. Unfortunately, Verdant issued an invoice for works carried out from the period October 2004 to December 2004 in spite of their quotation not being accepted. The Town Council returned the invoice informing them of this fact. Subsequently a letter has been received from Verdant informing members that in October 2004 they were awarded the contract from Mid Beds D C and as a result became responsible for invoicing Parishes/Towns direct for all work completed. Clerk to write to the Contract Services Manager of MBDC for clarification.

The Town Council also received an invoice from Verdant naming a supposed employee of Eurest Defence but with the Town Council's address on it. The invoice was returned accordingly but subsequent enquiries have shown that the employee named on the invoice not only doesn't work at Eurest Defence neither does the company employ Verdant's services. It should also be noted that Eurest are very concerned as to how this error could have been made by Verdant plc.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A report has been received of pedal cyclists using the bridleway at Rowney Warren. Mr. Leverington of the P3 Group is to be contacted accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.
