

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison, Rooker, Clark and Reddick, Mr. Mackin.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Messrs. Coward and Fletcher.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

Before the meeting commenced Mr. Wren welcomed Mrs. Clark as the new co-opted member of the Town Council.

**3. COLD CALLING ZONES**

An e:mail has been received from the County Council inviting a representative to attend the initial launch of a No Cold Calling Zone initiative to be held on Tuesday 25th October at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick. This is deemed to be a deterrent to persuade rogue Door Step Traders to keep out of Bedfordshire and will be carried out by both the Trading Standards Service and Bedfordshire Police in the hope that residents will report such unwanted doorstep callers. The Clerk to attend.

**4. REPORT ON ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION – ST MICHAEL’S PLAY AREA**

Last week Mrs. Harrison and the Clerk attended a meeting with the playground inspector at the St Michael’s Play Area with a view to thoroughly examining all items of play equipment for any faults. Mrs. Harrison informed the members of the results of the meeting and it was decided to request the contractor to remove the playship and carry out remedial work to the concrete footings of the wooden ‘chicken’ which is situated near the entry gate.

**5. LITTER PICKING – ST. MICHAEL’S PLAY AREA**

It was decided that the contractor responsible for the grass cutting in this play area will no longer be required to carry out a litter pick as this work is now carried out by the play area contractor.

**6. PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORTS**

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.

## **7. YOUTH BEHAVIOUR – MILLENIUM GREEN – E:MAIL FROM RESIDENT**

An e:mail has been received from a resident of Purcell Way regarding the behaviour of certain youths at the Millenium Green. The condition of the changing rooms was also mentioned. The resident is to be informed that any incidents of vandalism or inappropriate behaviour should be reported the Beds Police, ideally while they are occurring. The repair and maintenance of the changing rooms is the responsibility of Shefford Saints under the terms of the lease granted to them.

## **8. DITCH/FOOTPATH – TIPPETT DRIVE**

It has been noted that during the recent heavy rainfall, the ditch in Tippett Drive flooded. Some time ago, the developer responsible for the ditch stated that they were intending to implement an access chamber which would enable them to 'jet' the ducts which would then prevent this happening in future. As no action was ever taken by the developer, they were contacted again for an update. A reply has been received informing the members that they do not see a problem in carrying out the works and the matter will be investigated further.

## **9. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS**

An e:mail has been received from the Assistant Traffic Manager at Beds County Council enquiring if the committee intend proceeding with vehicle activated signs. It is hoped to proceed with the installation of these signs and discussions are to take place in order to establish the most ideal sites.

## **10. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TOOLKIT LAUNCH**

An invitation to attend the launch of a video and tool-kit on anti-social behaviour has been received from the Youth Participation Officer at the District Council. The launch will take place in Biggleswade on 21<sup>st</sup> October between 3.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

## **11. TRANSPORT TOKEN PROJECT**

The Youth Participation Officer at Mid Beds District Council has written informing members of two options whereby funding is available to increase the transport tokens capacity. Option A is for the Council to provide the first £250 (i.e. the maximum for each project) which the District Council will then match. Option B is for projects to be able to buy further transport tokens via Mid Beds District Council. Regrettably as little interest had been shown in the whole transport token project it was decided to simply maintain the tokens already held.

## **12. INVITATION – BEDS PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION**

An invitation to attend their AGM has been received from the Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association. The venue is Flitwick Cricket Club, The Vale, Flitwick Road, Westoning commencing at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. No representatives were available to attend from this committee.

## **13. ROADS SURVEY**

All members are to be issued with copies of the previous road survey with a view to updating the existing information prior to forwarding to the Highways Department of the County Council.

**14. MBDC – LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

A copy of the draft action plan of the Local Strategic Partnership has been received from District Council. The Plan emerged as a result of a priority setting workshop which took place in July. An accompanying letter also stated that there was still work outstanding on the document, especially with regard to measurements, which will be completed in the coming weeks.

**15. GRASS-CUTTING CONTRACT**

Further work is to be carried out on the maps that will eventually be used to inform contractors of the area for which they will be tendering in respect of grass-cutting. It is anticipated that 'Invitations to Tender' will be sent out in the near future.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The recycled plastic fencing and gates to be used at Bellcote Meadow Play Area has been delivered to the Town Council's yard. Fencing posts/ hinges and security screws are to be delivered next week.

A third quotation is to be sought for the supply of new signs to replace those currently existing at The Meads.

It was reported that the front of an NTL box in the vicinity of Bloomfield Drive and Amphill Road was secured by tape. Although it was thought possible that the contractor was still working in the area, Mr. Wren informed members that he would investigate the matter.

Street light number 8B at the Campton Underpass isn't working.

Disgust registered at the state of the High Street, particularly with regard to the vast amount of weeds that are growing through the pavements etc.

A litter bin has still not been provided by the proprietor of the Kebab Shop in the High Street despite several requests. The District Council is to be contacted to see if they can assist in some way.

The Head Office of Somerfield's Stores is to be contacted to see if they can send a representative to discuss the many adverse issues which surround the local store. These include their responsibility to both the environment and the residents, vandalism and nuisance behaviour on the car park.

It was reported that remedial work will be carried on the drains adjacent to the White Hart public house in approximately six weeks time. Unfortunately, however, difficulties have arisen regarding the work required at Kingsmede area as none of the contractors involved will admit liability.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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