

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2006**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark and Reddick, Messrs. Steeples, Coward, Fisher and Wren. District Councillor Mr. Birt.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Messrs. Gray, Leith, Rance, Barber and the Clerk. District Councillor Mr. Chapman. County Councillor Mr. Younger.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

It was decided to defer the issue of PCSO funding and surrounding matters to the next meeting of the Finance and Policy committee.

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor informed the members that both he and Mrs. Harrison had attended a meeting with Basil Jackson, the Assistant Director, Highways & Transport for the County Council. Several topics were discussed including the vast amount of weed growth in the town, the poor state of the roads and roundabouts, the pavement in North Bridge Street and Southbridge Street and Ivel Road.

Mr Jackson was then given a guided tour of the main problem areas in the town and appeared very concerned about the condition of the road surfaces and the poor quality of the repairs. He was also shown the Kingfisher Way Play Area and the skid marks caused by a speeding vehicle prior to crashing into the perimeter fence. It is hoped that a barrier will be erected round the play area with the possibility of a safety kerb being installed as well.

The Mayor reported that the repairs in Ivel Road were now underway and it would appear that neither Mr Jackson nor the contractors were aware of the subsidence issue. Some subsidence occurred within 2 hours of the first surface layer being applied.

The Mayor also informed those present that there was a good chance that some agreement could be reached whereby the Town Council would receive some funding from the County Council so that they can carry out the weed control operation. It is unlikely that the funding would be a large sum of money and hence a balance would have to be raised from the precept in order to utilize the services of a contractor.

The Mayor said a lot of detail still needed to be worked out such as training, licenses, safety kit and so on but he felt it would be to our advantage to look into the matter. At the end of the three hour meeting Mr Jackson informed the Mayor and Mrs. Harrison that he would attend to as many concerns as possible.

Mr. Jackson said would add Churchill way to the 'winter gritting' programme particularly bearing in mind that the road was deemed to be part of the safer routes to school system.

A small ceremony has been arranged for the Gala Queen and Princess which will consist of a 'cream tea' for the girls and their parents in the Princess Charlotte Room at Old Warden Airfield.

The Mayor informed those present that he will be attending a site meeting along with a Planning Officer from the District Council to discuss the parking situation in Ivel Road. It is hoped that the local Beat Manager will also be able to attend. It seems obvious that there is insufficient parking for the businesses on that site.

Mr. Coward declared an interest in this item.

The Homewatch co-ordinator asked if she could hire the Council Chamber on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> October. No objections were raised.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Invitation to the AGM of the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Ltd on 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. at Clifton Village Hall.

6.2 Notification of temporary road closure Ivel Road/Clifton Road from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September.

6.3 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

6.4 Various publications : Marie Curie Cancer News, Luton London Airport Community Newsletter, The Playing Field, Local Councils Update, Bulletin – Standards Board for England, Bedfordshire, Issue 41 Commentree, Hurricane, The Miracle Times, Beds-Spread.

6.4 Mr. Birt gave the Mayor a letter he had received from The Southill Estate regarding Shefford Town Football Club.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee meetings held during August.

Mr. Mackin commented on the Planning Applications that had been received and dealt with during August.

## **8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

County Councillor Mr. Younger was unable to attend the meeting but issued the following e:mail :

Kingfisher Way Play Area – ‘We’ve agreed the need for a small scale safety ‘audit’ to satisfy some of our technical reservations (having said we fully understand the commitments given to install barriers and the timescale required).’

‘We have arranged for our specialist sub contractor to install barriers’.

‘The sub contractor has spare capacity over the next couple of weeks which we will make use of.’

## **9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Overall it was felt that things were quiet due to the recent move to Chicksands. The IT operation was a major move with links having to be closed down. Staff are settling down and enjoying the new offices. There will be an official opening in November.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

The accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

## **11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None.

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The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.