

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2006**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick and Clark, Messrs. Gray, Wren, Dear, Fisher and Coward. District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Birt.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr. Rance, District Councillor Mr. Chapman and PC Busby.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

This could not be given due to the absence of PC Busby.

**6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor hoped that everybody had a restful Christmas and offered his good wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year which he thought was likely to be busy one for all Town Council members.

The Mayor also informed those present that the current pressure on the County Council's Highways Department needed to be maintained. The new contractors are now well into their second year of a five year programme and so far little improvement has been noted.

Pressure should also be maintained on Anglian Water Services as they are responsible for sewerage disposal etc. although it would appear that they have not been proactive in their efforts to forward plan. They are required to connect new housing developments to the main sewer, regardless of whether it is big enough to take the additional load. At a recent meeting with Anglian Water representatives it was noted that if a developer builds a sewerage pumping station that does not come up to the AWS standard they are not obliged to accept it. This could mean that that any residents connected to it may have to share the cost of upgrading it to get it adopted by the sewerage undertaking.

Elections are to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 and any Councillors who intend to stand for re-election need to give their names to the Clerk in order that their names can be listed for the necessary papers to be raised.

The Mayor also stated that the Gala committee would still like more volunteers to help with annual Gala next June.

The reflective safety armbands have now been delivered to the Shefford lower School.

Finally the Mayor informed members that he thought the best date to hold the Annual Town Meeting would be 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 as this would not coincide with the elections or the end of month full Council meeting.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 A letter from the Beds Association of Town & Parish Councils enquiring if the Council would like a presentation on the electing of new Councillors.

7.2 An invitation from the Community & Voluntary Service to attend a seminar entitled *Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures* on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January between 10.00 am and 12 noon at 43 Bromham Road, Bedford.

7.3 A letter from Cllr. Fisher informing members of what the initials stood for on the OVFFF Cup which both he and his wife had donated to the Town Council.

7.4 An invitation from the County Council to attend a meeting to discuss the *County-wide Unitary Authority Proposals* the Rufus Centre, Flitwick on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 which will run from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

7.5 Information from the Administration Officer at the District Council informing members of recent break-ins to farm outbuildings.

7.6 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

7.7 Various publications : Watch Wide News – Winter 2006, Bulletin from the Standards Board for England, Fieldwork from CPRE, Beds-Spread-Community & Voluntary Service, Adult Learning from Beds C C, Local Councils Update, Hurricane, Local Council Review.

7.8 Information from the Design Technician at Amey Infrastructure Services informing members of the County Council's intention to construct a build out at the bus stop located on Clifton Road on the E/B side outside property No. 171 just before Bury Road.

However, it was suggested that the County Council should inform those residents living close to the proposed works as was recently done on a similar project in Ampthill Road.

It was further suggested that it would be preferable to construct the build out on the other side of Clifton Road where it used to be particularly bearing in mind the proximity of the Southfiels/Bury Road junctions.

It was RECOMMENDED and agreed by the full Council that the quote to replace part of the fencing along the riverbank adjacent to The Meads be accepted.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Services and Maintenance of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Finance and Policy of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006..

## **9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This could not be given due to the absence of County Councillor Younger.

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Brown informed those present that the District Council was considering various aspects of food waste. A trial run of approximately 6,000 properties will be involved on a weekly collection basis and a separate small waste bin will be delivered to the participating households.

Cllr. Birt stated that a District Council 'capping' of about 5% is likely and further added that there has been a change at Director level at the District Council resulting in six directors instead of eight. There has also been a reduction in the number of other employees. This will mean a saving in expenditure and hopefully a more efficient District Council.

## **11. ACCOUNTS**

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

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Information was received that the Community Hall will be closed from 5<sup>th</sup> February for a period of three weeks.

The Town Council was thanked for the tidying up of the town centre and other areas.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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