

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH JULY 2006

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark and Reddick, Messrs. Fisher, Dear, Coward, Rance, Wren, Leith, Coward and Smith.
County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillor Mr. Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Steeples and District Councillor Mr. Brown.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 30th June 2006 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor informed those present that he had received information that Bedfordshire Police have been offered part funding by the Home Office for 82 new Police Community Support Officers in 2006/7 and 71 in 2007/08. The funding provides 75% of the basic salaries, leaving Bedfordshire Police to find the remaining 25%. The Home Office is encouraging Police Authorities to engage with local authorities and businesses to cover the funding shortfall, without asking the residents to pay increased Council Tax payments. In this way, local Town/Parish Councils are being given an opportunity to fund Police Community Support Officers and direct the policing resources towards local community concerns. A contract was enclosed with the literature and copies were distributed to some members for their perusal. A copy is also to be sent to the Council's solicitor.

The Mayor also gave a short report on an informal meeting held on 23rd July by residents of Ivel Road. The meeting was arranged because of their concerns primarily regarding the volume of traffic using the road and numerous incidents of subsidence in the road.

Mr. Mackin said that he had received a copy of a letter sent to the District Council from a resident urging them to change back to weekly refuse collections. Overall the letter complained of stench emanating from the bins in spite of using dustbin powder and having the bin professionally cleaned. Mr Mackin said that any concerns that residents had about health and safety should be directed to the District Council.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Notice of temporary road closure for resurfacing works. 21/08/2006 to 01/09/2006 Ivel Road/Shefford Road.

6.2 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1st August 2006 to 30th November 2006.

6.3 Various Publications : Network from BRCC, Local Councils Update, Bedfordshire, Horizon, Clerks & Councils Direct, Update-Bedfordshire Spark Adult Learning, MBDC-Toolkit for Community Champions-explanation of the rights that consumers have when buying goods or services, Mid Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership-Community Plan Priorities & Actions 2006-2011.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 5th and 19th July 2006.

Services and Maintenance of 12th July 2006.

Mr. Coward stated that he had attended this meeting but this had not been noted-the records were amended accordingly.

Finance & Policy of 19th July 2006.

Mr. Coward requested that his apologies for this meeting should be recorded.

8. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Younger.

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Chapman.

10. ACCOUNTS

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

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident from Ivel Close raised concerns about refuse bins being left on the pavement particularly with regard to access to the close by emergency vehicles.

A further concern about inappropriate parking and condition of the road and pavements in both Ivel Close and Ivel Road was also raised.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.