

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH OCTOBER 2006

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes, Clark and Reddick, Messrs. Fisher, Gray, Coward, Steeples, Wren, Rance and Smith. District Councillor Birt, PC Busby.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Barber, Leith and Dear. County Councillor Younger, District Councillors Brown and Chapman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 29th September were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

This was given by PC Busby who detailed both the Crime Incidents and Anti-Social Behaviour Reports for the month of Shefford during September.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that the Annual Remembrance Parade will take place on Sunday 12th November. A wreath has already been purchased and donations towards the charity can be contributed accordingly.

The plans for next year's Summer Gala are progressing well but more organizers, either Councillors or non-Councillors are needed.

The Shefford Community Safety Group has been granted funds from the Mid Beds D C Community Safety Partnership and those funds have been used to purchase 400 reflective armbands that will be given to Shefford Lower School pupils shortly after half term. A short presentation was given to the group by members of a young people's organization called AIR. It is anticipated that membership of the organization will increase as it is open to all young people from the Mid Bedfordshire area and hopefully this may present the Town Council with an opportunity to utilize their knowledge to advise them on the needs of young people.

The Town Council's contractor has been asked to start a weed clearing programme around the town centre area. Although the cost of this exercise will come from

'unbudgeted' funds the Mayor felt that neither the County Council nor District Council can be relied on to do the job properly. However, both authorities will be requested to pay for any works for which they have a responsibility and should utilize only reliable contractors. The situation will be considered at the time of setting the precept in December.

Mrs. Harrison gave details of her recent site meeting she'd had with two representatives of Amey's at the Bedford Road crossing. It was agreed that the crossing was not up to the required specification. A request for the installation of moduposts is to be made to the County Council as this should make the crossing more obvious to vehicular traffic.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Recorded Crime and Anti-Social Reports for September 2006.

7.2 Pamphlet from the Work Environment Team Manager at the District Council entitled 'Fireworks Use Them Legally, Safely and Considerately.

7.2 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1st November 2006 to 28th February 2007

7.3 Various Publications : Local Council Review, Bedfordshire Matters – CPRE, Local Councils Update, The Local Column from the Local Channel.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 4th and 18th October 2006.

Services and Maintenance of 11th October 2006.

Finance and Policy of 18th October 2006..

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This could not be given as County Councillor Younger was unable to attend.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by District Councillor Birt who reported on the Local Democracy Week – Youth Participation Morning which had been held on Friday 20th October at Haynes Village Hall. The meeting was deemed a great success by all those that attended.

Councillor Birt informed those present that in general it was business as usual.

1423 : 10/2006

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chiltern Radio will be attending the Annual Town Lights switch-on on Saturday 2nd December.

It was agreed that the Town Council would pay for the Bevan Boys wreath to be laid at the War Memorial during the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November.

It was reported that flooding frequently occurs near the archway at the Shefford Building Supplies. County Council is to be requested to carry out remedial work.

Councillor Birt informed members that the granite sign outside the Community Hall has been smashed and on the same night a sign outside Ford's garage in Ampthill Road was also vandalized. Beds Police were contacted and an URN was given.

Councillor Birt also reported that £2,200 has been spent on some new Christmas lights and insurance.

Concerns were raised about the dilapidated state of the bus shelter in Clifton Road. Clerk to inspect and liaise with appropriate authority with a view to replacement/repair.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.
