

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2006

PRESENT

Mrs. Harrison presided over Mesdames Clark and Reddick, Messrs. Dear, Fisher, Wren Leith, Rance, Coward, Barber and Smith. District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Chapman. PC Busby.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes, Messrs. Mackin and Gray, County Councillor Mr. Younger, District Councillor Mr. Birt.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 25th August were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

This was given by P C Busby who detailed the 15 crime incidents as shown on the monthly crime reports for Shefford during August. P C Busby informed those present of his mobile phone number and said he was happy for it to be used whenever an incident was observed in the town which required his attention. Overall he said that he preferred to be contacted that way rather than by e:mail. He briefly explained his personal method of 'policing' and offered to answer any of the members' questions. He was thanked for his attendance after which he left the meeting.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Harrison, informed members that Mr. Cyril White had recently passed away and the Town Council had sent a letter of condolence to his family.

There have been further issues of vandalism at the Kingfisher Way play area. Some tree saplings that had been recently planted have been broken and destroyed and the Council has received photographs of this wanton destruction. Beds police were informed and a Unique Reference Number (URN) has been received.

Mrs. Harrison informed members that they were automatically members of the Campton and Shefford Joint Burial Committee. Members were urged to attend those committee meetings whenever possible as the last Burial Committee meeting had not been quorate.

It has been noted that Tesco's have fitted steel shutters to their premises in Old Bridge Way in an attempt to secure the building from non-authorized entry.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Recorded Crime Incidents for August 2006.

6.2 Anti-Social behaviour Report for August 2006.

6.3 Information from Beds Police regarding their Internal Re-organization.

6.4 Invitation from Mid Beds D C to attend their Joint Reception with the County Council at 6.30 p.m. on 7th November at Priory House.

6.5 Invitation to attend the AGM of the Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association on 17th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Mid Beds Council Chamber at Priory House.

6.6 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1st October 2006 to 31st January 2007.

6.7 An invitation to attend the AGM of the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils on 25th October at 7.30 p.m. in Cranfield Village Hall.

6.8 Various publications : Watch Wide News – Autumn 2006, Bedfordshire, Beds-Spread September 2006, The Local Channel – September 2006, Horizon, Local Council Update – September 2006, Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2006, Local Council Review September 2006, CPRE's Fieldwork – September 2006, Rural Services Review from DEFRA, Bedfordshire Spark Adult Learning, CommenTree Issue 42, Hurricane – Issue 9 – September/October, In and Around 2006,

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 6th and 20th September 2006.

Services and Maintenance of September 2006.

Finance and Policy of 20th September.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

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

Youth Service Worker Nicola King has ceased employment with the County Council and has been replaced by John Stott as the new Youth Worker. Both Nicola and Cllr. Younger were successful in obtaining funding for new disco equipment from the Youth Issue Group.

Mr. Younger stated that it was his intention to oppose the Planning Application in respect of granting of a temporary licence to continue the glass recycling operation at Shefford Business Park.

The request to 'yellow line' Hitchin Road, Clifton Road and Southbridge Street and lower Ivel Road has been turned down. Cllr. Younger will be meeting a highways officer to discuss these locations and the criteria for yellow lining to see if the situation can be remedied.

The matter of lamp posts and junction boxes in the middle of the footpath at the top of Amphill Road is due to be rectified in due course. Further rectification work is also to be carried out as the 30 mph signs and bus stops in this area are totally obscured.

Cllr. Younger has requested the Director of the Environment to carry out 3 safety audits – namely Hitchin Road, Churchill Drive and Chicksands although the last one is in another parish council area. The purpose of the audit is to ascertain whether enhancement works to roads and pavements signage should be improved in the interests of general road safety.

Now that the safety barrier has been erected at the kingfisher Way Play Area, Cllr. Younger has persuaded Highways to carry out a safety audit and more works are planned in the shape of warning chevrons.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Cllr. Brown and Cllr. Chapman.

The Appeal by the developers in regard to 8 Clifton Road has been upheld which will allow the development to go ahead. Mr Coward declared an interest in this issue.

Cllr. Chapman further explained the matters surrounding the re-organisation of Beds police.

The Planning Application in respect of the Esso filling station has been recommended for refusal by Mid Beds D C.

There is a possibility that a trial period to amend the food waste collections from fortnightly to weekly may be introduced during the hot summer months next year.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A resident from the Wharf informed members that he had attended a meeting with Mrs. Reddick and the Environment Agency regarding the prolific weed growth on the banks of the River Flit. It appears that the EA is short on manpower but those authorities that shout for action the most are more likely to get assistance. The resident said he was happy to assist the Council in whatever way he could in order that the Flit should stay free-flowing. The EA doesn't own the R. Flit but has certain 'powers' regarding its flow.

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It was reported that a drain adjacent to the pedestrian crossing in Ampthill Road has become covered in grass. The County Council is to be contacted to arrange for re-profiling of the drain so that it can identified by the gully cleansing contractor.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.
