

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH DECEMBER 2006

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Mesdames Mrs Harrison, Mrs Holmes and Mr. Mackin.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Gray, Wren and Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PRECEPT 2007/8

The precept in respect of the Finance and Policy committee was established and as such is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council.

4. CONTRACT – SHEFFORD TOWN COUNCIL / BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

It was agreed that the clerk should sign the above contract as the designated officer in respect of funding a PCSO for Shefford.

5. APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID – SHEFFORD COMMUNITY HALL

An application for funding has been received from the Chairman of Trustees, Shefford Community Hall. An income and expenditure report has been received along with other supporting documentation. The Committee decided that they would like to offer financial assistance but thought that the best way of showing their support was to purchase a particular piece of equipment as indicated on the list of items required for the refurbishment.

Therefore, it is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the sum of up to £1,240 be donated for the purchase of an Electric Range Cooker.

6. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – WHITBREAD WANDERBUS

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the sum of £200 be donated towards the running of the Whitbread Wanderbus.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF HOSPITAL SERVICES IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

The committee has received a letter from the Chief Executive of the East of England Strategic Health Authority seeking their answers to the questions posed about the work that has been done so far in the NHS. As only two working weeks has been allowed for a response it was decided to inform the Chief Executive that an inappropriate length of time has been allowed for the members to form a considered response.

8. LETTER FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL re UNITARY PROPOSAL FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

As part of its Local Government White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities* published on 26th October, the Government has invited local authorities in shire areas to make proposals for unitary local government. This recognizes that county areas moving to unitary structures would improve accountability and leadership, increase efficiency and value for money and improve outcomes for local people. In two tier areas where there is not a move to unitary structures, the Government has made it clear that the status quo is not an option. The Leader of the County Council has issued the Criteria for Proposals and The Rules as well as the Options for Bedfordshire. In short the Leader of the C C thinks that a county unitary would be the best option for Bedfordshire and enclosed a summary of the four reasons as to why that decision has been reached. A Timetable for the implementation of the decisions to be made by was also enclosed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.
