

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Messrs. Gray, Coward and Wren.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. LETTER FROM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT COLBOURNE**

A letter has been received from Chief Superintendent Colbourne of Bedfordshire Police informing members that he has moved from his role as Divisional Commander responsible for the territorial policing in South and Mid Bedfordshire to take up a role at Force Headquarters as project leader for the merger of Central and Bedford Divisions.

**4. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – NURSING STUDENT**

A 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursing student has applied to the committee for funding towards an overseas placement for 4 weeks at the Malaysia University Hospital commencing on 6<sup>th</sup> June. However, the student is to be informed that the committee is unable to help in this venture and will direct her towards the Robert Lucas Charity who it is thought may be able to offer financial assistance for educational purposes.

**5. TWO/THREE TIER EDUCATION SYSTEM ?**

The committee has received an invitation for one member to attend a workshop entitled *Organising for Excellence – Review of School Structures in Bedfordshire Consultation Project*. The workshop will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> March between 5.00 – 7.00 p.m. at the Silsoe Conference Centre, Cranfield University, Silsoe. No members were available to attend but decided to take up the offer to respond on either the County Council's website or to complete a questionnaire on the Four S website. A written response will be sent to the Education Department of the County Council anyway.

**6. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

Regrettably, due to work and other commitments Mr. Russell Fletcher has had to tender his resignation as a Town Councillor. Mr Fletcher has worked tirelessly on the Council for some considerable time and was at one time Chairman of the Services and Maintenance committee. A letter of thanks and appreciation for his good work is to be sent accordingly.

**7. CLERK'S CONTRACT**

Two copies of the Clerk's contract were signed and dated as per the NJC/SLCC agreement. One will be kept by the clerk and the other will remain with the Town Council.

**8. OVPPF TROPHY - NOMINATIONS**

The committee deliberated over the nominations received for the above award. Eventually one male candidate and one female candidate were found that fitted the criteria and as such were deemed suitable recipients for the Trophy. Both candidates are to be contacted accordingly.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A suggestion has been made that young persons winning their category at the Annual Craft and Produce Show should receive an award such as a shield or a medal. The committee felt that this would be an excellent way of rewarding them for their efforts and so it is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that a figure of up to £200 be spent from the Mayor's Allowance to purchase a suitable trophy.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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