

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

**PRESENT**

Mr Steeples presided over Mesdames Harrison and Holmes, Messrs. Mackin, Wren and Coward.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr. Gray.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. CLEANER – PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

A verbal quotation to clean the male, female and disabled toilet has been received from a self-employed cleaning contractor. In view of the overall annual cost it is necessary to source two further quotes.

**4. DOOR CLOSING MECHANISM – PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

It was agreed to proceed with the installation of the door-closing mechanism on both the ladies and gents toilets. The disabled facility will continue to be operated by a Radar key. The system will be operated on a 'timer' basis and a 'quick-release' button will be installed on both the male and female facilities.

**5. FUNDING – BEDFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES**

An application for funding has been received from the Team Librarian of the County Council. Last year funding enabled 'Zoo Lab' and their exotic animals to visit Shefford library and it is anticipated that a further children's event will be held again this year. It is **RECOMMENDED** that £150 be donated accordingly.

**6. TRANSPORT TOKENS**

An invitation to continue with the Transport Token system has been received from the Youth Participation Officer at the District Council. As there has only been one application for the tokens in the last two years it was decided not to continue with the scheme.

**7. TWO OR THREE TIER EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Mrs Harrison reported on a document she had studied previously received from 4S entitled *Consultation on the Review of School Structures in Bedfordshire*. The questionnaire at the end of the document is to be completed and forwarded to the appropriate authority accordingly. 4S are carrying out the survey on behalf of the County Council.

**8. THE LOCAL CHANNEL**

A letter has been received from 'The Local Channel' inviting the Town Council to implement a website that could be used to link to other websites nationwide to deliver local information. Although setting up the website with their assistance and subsequent entry on to the system is free, overall it was decided that at the present time the current website offered all the information that was needed.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Harrison enquired if any members of the committee had any objection to the STMA changing their financial year end from December to March. No objections were raised.

It was decided to obtain extra keys for the town's bollards.

The District Council is to be requested to carry out remedial work on all the damaged bollards in the High Street.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*