

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 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. APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID – SHEFFORD COMMUNITY HALL

A letter has been from the Grants and Administration Officer at the District Council enquiring if the Town Council would consider a financial contribution towards the kitchen refurbishment at the Shefford Community Hall. Additional documentation has also been received from the Community Hall Trustees. The committee is to reply that it would give consideration to financial support to this project if an application was made prior to a meeting of the precedent committee which will take place next December. However, it should be noted that the committee will also require accompanying documentation such as audited accounts, business plan, certificate in respect of the re-wiring, budgets and any other relevant documentation. This request is made to all community assets as the Council must see that spending is in accordance with any specifications as they are accountable for public monies. The Shefford Community Hall Trustees are to be asked for all documentation as stated above.

4. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Earlier this year a copy of the proposed contract between the Town Council and the Bedfordshire Police Authority was sent to the Council's solicitors for perusal and comment. This contract has now been returned with accompanying explanations to certain of the clauses. The committee studied the solicitor's comments and agreed accordingly. A copy of those comments and suggested amendments are to be forwarded to Beds Police.

5. REPLY FROM BEDS POLICE

Last month the committee wrote to Beds Police about concerns regarding the difficulty of complainants obtaining URN's and the apparent cessation of both Crime Incident and Anti-Social Behaviour Incident reports. A reply has been received from Beds Police informing the committee that an investigation is currently being carried out and a full answer will be sent in due course.

6. AWARD TROPHIES

The committee has received a letter from a Council member regarding the status and nomination system used by the committee when awarding the OVPPF Trophies. The member is to be informed that a donator of any trophy is automatically ineligible to receive it as an award.

7. LETTER FROM BEDS & LUTON NHS RE HIRE OF TOWN MEETING ROOM

A letter has been received from the Senior Day Care Officer of the above Trust enquiring about the cost and availability of hiring the Town Meeting Room in order to run a developing confidence course for clients in the Mid Bedfordshire area. The Officer is to be contacted about both hire rates and availability.

8. REPLY FROM BEDS C C – RE COUNCIL’S CONCERNS OVER HIGHWAYS ETC.

A reply has been received from the Bedfordshire C C’s Chief Executive’s Office in answer to a letter from the Town Council itemizing their concerns about the appalling state of the town’s highways and pavements. The reply stated that the Town Council’s complaint will be investigated and a response sent in due course. The Chief Executive is to be reminded that the Town Council’s letter requested a full and formal reply by the end of the first week in November otherwise their concerns will be brought to the media’s attention.

9. GRANT APPLICATION FORM – MBDC

The committee is in receipt of a grant application form in respect of funding for a new play train and play carriage in the St. Michael’s Play area. It is hoped that the District Council will supply funding for 50% of the cost and the remaining 50% will come from an S106 Agreement.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Harrison reported that she had attended a site meeting at the Bedford Road crossing with two Amey’s Highway Engineers. It was agreed that the crossing was not up to the required specification and a request was to be made to the County Highways Department for the installation of moduposts which would make the crossing more obvious to vehicular traffic. Mrs Harrison will give a more formal report at the full Council meeting on 27th October.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.
