

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON 1st MARCH 2006**

PRESENT

Mrs. Holmes presided over Mrs. Harrison, Messrs. Mackin, Gray, Steeples and Leith.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Fisher.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Gray declared an interest in Planning Application Number 06/00241/FULL

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

06/00224/FULL

Conversion of existing garage to living accommodation and first floor side extension.
11 Alamein Close

No objection

06/00199/FULL

Conservatory to rear
26 Montgomery Avenue

No objection

06/00241/FULL

Conservatory to rear
70 Ampthill Road

No objection

4. DECISIONS

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

05/01844/FULL

Erection of agricultural storage building
Hillfoot Farm, Hitchin Road.

Notice of Approval of Minor Amendment to Permission Granted

05/01521/FULL

Description of Amendment : Change of approved roof tile from Forticrete Gemini
Autumn to Forticrete Gemini Brindle

5. HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY & FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY 2006 – 2011

Information and a questionnaire has been received from the Mid Beds D C officer responsible for the above. Mrs. Holmes informed members that she would study the document and report back accordingly.

6. LETTER FROM DIVISIONAL COMMANDER – BEDS POLICE

A letter has been received from Chief Superintendent Frost introducing himself to members as the new Divisional Commander for Bedfordshire Police. On 1st April Beds Police will re-organise its policing Divisions into two, these being Luton, which will be co-terminous with Luton Unitary Authority and Bedfordshire, being co-terminous with the three Local Authorities and the County Council.

7. MID BEDS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – QUESTIONNAIRE

Documentation and a questionnaire have been received from the District Council regarding the above. Mr. Mackin offered to review the information and report back accordingly.

8. REVIEW OF SCHOOL STRUCTURES

Discussions whether to maintain the current three tier education system or revert to a two tier system are currently taking place in the county. As a result of these discussions, many organisations and interested parties are being asked for their views on both systems. Members have been asked to study all information received and reply with comments on a previously received questionnaire. Mrs. Harrison volunteered to study the information and report back accordingly.

9. ERECTION OF BRASS LIGHTS ON HIGH STREET PREMISES

It has been noted that two brass lights have been erected outside the premises occupied by Shefford Building Supplies. As a request for planning permission has never been received by this committee, it was decided to contact the Planning Enforcement Officer at the District Council to establish their legality.

10. COMMUTED SUMS – TAVISTOCK DEVELOPMENTS / KINGFISHER WAY / CHURCHILL WAY / OLD BRIDGE WAY

With regard to the S106 Agreement re Tavistock Developments and the Old Brewery site development, it has been noted that the trigger point for the release of monies due has been reached. An Application Form is to be requested from the District Council in order to apply for the monies.

More information is to be sought from the Play and Open Space Officer at the District Council regarding monies due in respect of the Kingfisher Way and Churchill Way Play Areas.

A copy of the S106 Agreement has been received from the District Council in respect of the Land At Old Bridge Way application. Members felt that permission to build on the land was under appeal as they had not received information to the contrary. Further information is to be sought by way of an update.

11. LANDFILL TAX CREDIT EVENT – 30th MARCH 2006

An invitation has been received from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity in conjunction with Grantscape (WREN) and Beds Funding Advice Bureau to attend a Landfill Tax Information Event on 30th March at 7.30 p.m. in Wilstead Village Hall. It was thought that the event might be of benefit to the Shefford Saints F C in their attempts to acquire funding for drainage work which they hope to carry out at Bellcote Meadow.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Empty Homes Officer at the District Council is to be contacted regarding the empty property at the end of Ampthill Road which is thought to be number 134.

A representative from Tesco Stores had agreed to attend this committee meeting in order to update members on the situation surrounding their proposed retail store in the town. However, the representative never arrived and did not send any apologies. The Mayor phoned him while the meeting was in progress but was only able to leave a message. It was decided to contact Tesco's Chief Executive to register the members' disgust if a suitable reply was not received within 48 hours. Tesco's have been requested numerous times over many months to give a presentation to members in order to establish their proposals for the site. It was impressed on them that there was a requirement for the Council to be in a position to update the residents on the situation prior to the Annual Town Meeting on 21st April. This was the first time that members had ever received a positive answer.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.