

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2006**

PRESENT

Mr Coward presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark and Reddick, Messrs. Mackin and Dear.

1. AOLOGIES

Mr. Wren.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

Following an equipment inspection it was decided to purchase and install a carbon monoxide detector in the Town Meeting Room.

4. E:MAIL FROM THE LOCAL HOMEWATCH CO-ORDINATOR

An e:mail has been received from the local Homewatch co-ordinator to an Officer at the District Council regarding the continuing amounts of litter and debris accumulating on the Somerfield Store car park. The committee fully concurred with those comments and the said Officer is to be informed of that fact accordingly.

5. DEFRA – CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS

Information regarding the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has been received from DEFRA particularly in respect Parish Council environmental enforcement. A free guide is also available and it was decided to apply for a copy in order to understand the full implications of the Act.

6. BEDS C C – TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE ANNUAL SURVEY

Information and a questionnaire regarding the county's roads have been received from the County Council. Mr Coward offered to study the information and complete the questionnaire which will be forwarded to the County Council in due course along with the committee's latest road/path and lights survey.

7. TARMAC – POTENTIAL MINERAL EXTRACTION IN BROOM

Tarmac Ltd has written to the committee informing them that Beds C C is developing its Minerals Development Framework Document and is seeking to identify preferred sites for future extraction of sand and gravel from within the county. In order to explain the proposals a public exhibition has been organized for Friday 21st April and Saturday 22nd April at Broom Village Hall.

8. MBDC – EASY ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES

The Communications Manager of the District Council has written to the committee informing them of a number of changes they are making to improve access to local services. New 'one-stop' Citizone Points of Presence' will be opened in both Ampthill and Biggleswade. The committee felt that Shefford residents will mostly use the new District Council offices in Chicksands for any information or guidance they needed and it was felt that pedestrian access to those offices was extremely hazardous. The District Council is to be informed of the committee's concerns.

9. TREES/PATH TIPPETT DRIVE PATHWAY TO MILLENIUM GREEN

Information and guidance has been sought from the County Council's Arboricultural Officer regarding the condition of the Willow trees and pathway at the point of entry to the Green from Tippett Drive. The officer said the trees do require attention as does the pathway. However, as the pathway has never been adopted by the Town Council it still remains the responsibility of the developer. With regard to the trees, they belong either to the developer or the actual householder. Although the Town Council has no obligation to carry out any remedial work, it was decided to contact the current developer and request that they carry out all appropriate work immediately. A copy of the Arboricultural Officers report will also be sent.

10. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

A further month's play area inspection reports have been received from the contractor. These were read out and any remedial works required were noted accordingly. The contractor is to be contacted to reinstate the levels on the basketball court. A quotation is also to be sought for both the removal of the 'Talking Tubes' and the cost of an alternative item of play equipment.

11. AGENDA – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The committee discussed the topics to be placed on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting on 21st April.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The litter bin outside the Somerfield store has been 'uprooted' and several block paving 'sets' have been removed thus causing a potential trip hazard.

Further complaints about the amount of litter accumulating outside the kebab shop in Ampthill Road. The Environmental Services Department of the District Council is to be contacted to see if they can assist the Town Council in their numerous requests to encourage proprietor to provide a litter bin.

The County Council Highways Department is to be contacted to arrange for a replacement bollard to be erected at the New Street/George Street junction as the previous one has been damaged.

1342 : 4/2006

Report of a missing metal upright fence spoke on the Churchill Way Play area. The Mid Beds Play & Open Space Officer is to be contacted to arrange for a repair prior to possible adoption of the play area by the Town Council.

A resident has written to the Editor of the Shefford Newline enquiring if a letter of thanks to friends and relatives for their support during a recent illness can be placed

in the magazine. A donation of £5 was enclosed with a request that it should be forwarded to a local charity. The committee agreed to the request and decided that a suitable recipient would be the Acorn Pre School Play Group.

Report of weeds growing down the side of the Catholic Church.

Report of two halves of a divan bed being deposited adjacent to the old football ground in Ivel Road. However, it is thought this might be on privately owned land.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.
