

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

At this point Mr. Wren welcomed three committee members from the Shefford Saints F C (Juniors) and a representative from the Bedfordshire Football Association who arrived to discuss the poor state of the Bellcote Meadow changing room. The Saints committee recognised that they were responsible for it's maintenance and apologised for its neglect. However, their feeling was that as the Council had been unable to accede to their previous request to grant them a ten year lease on the Bellcote Meadow then they had been unable to obtain funding from the Football Association. They explained that the funding would have allowed them to carry out works on the pitch particularly with regard to drainage improvements. Regrettably, as a portion of the pitch was frequently waterlogged, they were only playing on it approximately every three weeks. Overall this had resulted in a degree of apathy and hence the dilapidation of the building. The Saints committee further explained that if the Council were prepared to grant them a ten year lease, then all these matters would receive their attention including the restoration of the changing room.

It is RECOMMENDED to the Finance & Policy committee that the Shefford Saints F C (Juniors) be granted a 10 year lease.

**3. INFORMATION FROM MID BEDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Information received from the District Council has indicated that they will be closing their offices in Ampthill this summer when they will be relocating to Chicksands. Citizone Points of Presence will be opened in both Ampthill and Biggleswade to provide face-to-face services to local people.

**4. LATEST 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.

**5. INFORMATION RE LICENSED PREMISES AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Information has been received from the Beds Association of Town & Parish Councils regarding the legislation surrounding the holding of Council meetings in a building which is licensed to sell alcohol.

**6. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS**

The maps and associated paperwork in respect of the Council's responsibility for grass-cutting are now complete. An 'Invitation to Tender' advertisement is to be placed in the local newspaper and upon receipt of any applications, the appropriate paperwork will be forwarded accordingly.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A report of further erosion to the footpath adjacent to the Shefford Business is Park causing a potential hazard to pedestrians. The County Council to be contacted to carry out remedial work to secure the riverbank.

Request for plastic bollards to be removed in Gresham Way as they are nearly all broken. It was felt not only could they be dangerous to pedestrians due to their exposed sharp edges but were also unsightly.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

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