

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14TH JUNE 2006**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick and Mr. Dear.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Proposed Mrs. Harrison, seconded Mr. Coward and agreed unanimously that Mr. Wren be elected Chairman.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Proposed Mrs. Clark , seconded Mr. Mackin and agreed unanimously that Mr. Coward be elected Vice Chairman.

Mr. Wren then presided over the rest of the meeting.

At this point Mr. Wren welcomes two representatives from the County Council's Highways Department/Ameys Infrastructure.

Several of the committee's concerns were discussed, namely Ivel Road, Southfields, South bridge Street, Church Walk and the volume of vegetation growing through the town's pavements and gullies.

The representatives explained how the weed spraying operation would be carried out and offered further information as to their limited budget procedure. Overall it was felt that the meeting was of great benefit to both sides.

Although the latest regular Highway Reports were discussed, the members expressed their frustration at the poor format and limited information shown.

5. ST. MICHAEL'S PLAY AREA ENHANCEMENTS

A quotation has been received in respect of updating the equipment at the St. Michael's Play Area.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance and Policy committee that the Services and Maintenance committee proceeds with an investigation into sources of funding.

6. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

The committee has received the Annual Risk Assessment reports from the play area inspector for all play areas for which the Council has a responsibility. The items requiring attention were noted and the contractor is to be asked to carry out the appropriate remedial work in due course.

7. ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORTS

A further month's play area inspection reports have been received from the contractor. These were read out and remedial works noted accordingly.

8. REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Clark agreed to represent the Town Council on the Whitbread Wanderbus committee along with Mr. Steeples.

Mr. Coward agreed to represent the Council as a Trustee on the Town Band along with Mr. Gray.

9. BEDS C C HIGHWAYS – 2006/7 WORKS PROGRAMME

The County Council has issued it's 2006/7 works programme in respect of various highway areas. The report was studied and noted accordingly.

10. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN in CLIFTON ROAD

Concerns had been raised about the siting of the Vehicle Activated Signs in Clifton Road. It was reported that the sign had been erected outside the Shefford boundary and as such was in the designated Clifton boundary. An explanation as to the technicalities for this has been received from the highways engineer. The site has been investigated by the Highways Safety Engineer and it appears that the position of the sign will have to be accepted.

11. INVITATION TO KOMPAN OPEN DAY – PLAY EQUIPMENT

An invitation to attend an open day on play equipment has been received from Kompan Ltd. It is scheduled for 4th July in Milton Keynes and will run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

12. BEDS C C – RECYCLING SUPPORT TEAM

Information has been received from the County Council that their Recycling Support Team's primary objective is to increase the diversion of materials that can be recycled from landfill through direct communications with householders. A team of officers will be visiting all areas across Bedfordshire in an attempt to increase household participation. Bearing this in mind, the team will be visiting the Chicksands RAF Base during June as part of the countywide project. The team will offer advice to residents and ensuring they

are equipped with the appropriate containers needed to recycle household waste. All doorsteppers will display photographic identification and a Letter of Authority.

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13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A request for a dog litter bin to be placed in Lucas Way has been received from a resident.

The committee has received copies of three replies in answer to a resident's letters to the Mid Beds MP, Senior Engineer (Traffic Management) and the Director of Environment regarding her concerns about lorries shedding their loads in Stanford Road.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.
