

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 10TH MAY 2006**

PRESENT

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick and Clark, Mr. Dear.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Mackin and Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. WORKS TO BELLCOTE MEADOW CHANGING ROOM

A member of the Saints F C (Juniors) football committee has e;mailed this committee to inform them that considerable repair work has been carried out on the Bellcote Meadow Changing Room. An itemized list of the work was also enclosed. It is anticipated that the work will be completed next weekend. Members of the Saints committee have been invited to attend the June meeting of the Finance and Policy committee to discuss the related finance.

4. 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. HIGHWAY REPORTS – BEDS C C

The committee has received a report from the County Council in respect of highway repairs for the period 10th – 30th April which was passed round to members for their perusal.

6. DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT NOTICES

The latest report in respect of Decriminalized Parking Enforcement Notices for the quarter January to March has been received from the District Council. In total 9 Notices were issued – 8 because of vehicles being parked longer than permitted and one for a vehicle parked in a designated disabled bay without the necessary authorised documentation.

7. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS

The County Council's Highways Policy will only permit four Vehicle Activated Signs in the town. As three signs have already been requested it is **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance and Policy Committee that the fourth sign should be erected in Hitchin Road.

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8. DEVELOPMENT AT STANFORD ROAD

The Development Officer from Aragon Housing Association has written to the committee seeking a street name for the development at Stanford Road. The Officer suggested 'Navigators Way' or Stanford Close as the name of 'Cockshoot Close' previously suggested by the Council was deemed unsuitable. The committee discussed the alternatives mentioned but decided that as the name Navigators Way was already a designated 'rights of way' walk it would cause confusion. It was also felt that Lucas Close would be more suitable than Stanford Close. Finally the members decided on Walkers Close as being the most suitable. The existing names of Lucas and Gresham actually referred to one time residents of the town and Mr Jack Walker had been a trader in the town for many years and was a well known local character. Aragon Housing Association is to be contacted accordingly.

9. GRASS CUTTING – BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A letter has been received from the Highway Project Officer at the County Council informing members of the amount of contribution the Town Council will receive from the County in respect of grass cutting for the next twelve months. The letter also enclosed a schedule indicating the areas of grass cut in the town.

10. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Concerns were raised over the speed at which vehicles entered the town from the A600 Bedford Road. It was felt that many motorists did not show due care and consideration when approaching the pedestrian crossing. The Highways Department of the County Council is to be contacted to see if they can implement suitable safety and warning measures. It is unknown if the Vehicle Activated Sign will have an effect on reducing traffic speed as the installation work has still not been completed.

11. EMPTY PROPERTY – 136 AMPHILL ROAD

A report has been received that the empty property at 136 Amphill Road has been subjected to vandalism. Stones have also been thrown at both the green houses at the back of the property and parts of the house. The Empty Homes Officer at the District Council is to be informed of the situation.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A complaint has been received regarding the large volume of vegetation in front of the houses at Kingsmede. Mrs. Harrison said she would be prepared to visit the site with the Town Council's contractor to discuss the thinning out and removing of some of the under growth.

An invitation to attend an Empty Homes Awareness Session has been received from the District Council. The session is scheduled for Monday 15th May 2006 at Biggleswade Council Offices from 4 – 6 p.m.

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A visit by two members of the Highways Department (Ameys) has been arranged for Wednesday 14th June 2006.

An invitation to attend a Community Planning Evening has been received from Beechwood Homes in conjunction with Concensus Planning. It will be held in the Methodist Church Hall in Amphill Road on 15th May and will run from 7.15 – 9.30

p.m. The evening is arranged to discuss a proposal to erect 1 no. one bed flat and 11 no. three bed houses on the now vacant A T Oliver & Sons site.

A question was asked as to which authority had the responsibility to cut an area of grass in Iveldeale Drive. It is believed that the grass had not been cut for some considerable time.

Complaints have been received regarding the amount of vegetation seen growing through pavements and walkways etc. It is understood that a 'spraying operation' will be carried out later this month.

Concerns were raised over lorries parking outside the Indian Chef causing both disruption to pedestrians and undue wear and tear to the pavements.

Report of a tree in the river at Waterside.

Clarification is to be sought from the District Council as to whether or not retailers are permitted to dispose of their empty bottles in the bottle bank at Somerfield's Store. There was a thought that said retailers should dispose of their bottles at a local 'tidy tip'.

The committee received a report that a ball which had been kicked out of the Kingfisher Way Play Area had hit a passing car. The Play and Open Space Officer at the District Council is to be contacted to see if a 'No Ball Games Allowed' sign can be erected at the site.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.
