

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Coward presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick and Clark, Messrs. Mackin, Dear and Mr. Wren for part of meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. HIGHWAYS REPORT**

The October report for highway repairs has been received from the County Council. Those items appertaining for Shefford were noted accordingly.

**4. PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS**

The play area inspection reports up to 27<sup>th</sup> October have been received from the contractor.

Last month the contractor was asked for two quotations, namely, to repair the delaminating decks of the Rainbow Multi-play Unit and the removal of the Talking Tubes.

Regrettably in spite of more than one request for a quotation the contractor still has not replied. A further phone call and follow-up letter is to be made along with a request for urgency.

**5. NOTICE BOARD**

Although Councillor Rance had contacted a fabrication company as promised, regrettably the company informed him that they could not compete with the prices indicated by other notice board manufacturers. The Clerk is to make further enquiries accordingly.

**6. WEED CONTROL**

A quotation for a weed spraying operation to be carried out in various areas of the town has been received from the grass-cutting contractor along with a recommendation that the routine should be done two or three times a year. At the present time the Town Council's own contractor is manually removing weeds in the immediate town centre area. It was noted that the area now looks considerably better and the decision as to whether or not to carry out a weed spraying operation in the future will be decided prior to next Spring.

## **7. ANGLIAN WATER PRESENTATION**

Anglian Water Services Limited has replied to the committee's request for a presentation to be made to them with a view to discussing the various sewerage and drainage problems that frequently occur in certain areas of the town.

Two representatives from the company have agreed to attend a meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## **8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE – BEDS C C**

In spite of both the Chief Executive of the County Council and the Assistant Director of Highways being given nearly five weeks to reply to the committee's letter regarding the County Council's poor performance on road and pavement maintenance, no response has been received. This apparent apathy only adds to the reasons as to why the Town Council has no confidence in their ability to carry out their responsibilities to residents of the county.

Both the Chairman and the Leader of the County Council are to be informed that as the Town Council has not received the courtesy of a reply then all correspondence will be passed to the media as indicated in the Town Council's letter of early October.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Information has been received about a party that took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November at the flood plain area adjacent to Churchill Way which not only caused considerable nuisance to other residents but also resulted in a large volume of litter being strewn round the area.

Fortunately the rubbish was picked up by a community-minded resident the next morning. It is understood that photographs of the litter and debris that accumulated as a result of the mêlée have been forwarded to Beds police.

A request was made for a sign to be placed at the Ampthill Road/ School Lane junction to indicate both the Robert Bloomfield Middle School and Shefford Lower School entrances.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

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