

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13TH JUNE 2006**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES

The latest Penalty Charge Notices issued in Shefford for the quarter April to June 2006 have just been received from the District Council. Only two notices were issued for that period, one for Parked Longer than Permitted and one for Parking in a Disabled Bay. The Clerk is to contact South Beds D C who actually controls the scheme to ascertain how much time the Parking Attendants are spending in the town.

4. LATEST HIGHWAYS REPORT

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

5. PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

A further month's Play Area Inspection Reports has been received from the Contractor. These were to the committee and all remedial works required were noted accordingly. It is **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance & Policy committee that the St. Michael's Play area is updated in accordance with the quotation previously received.

6. ROAD SURFACES

Over recent months numerous reports on the condition of both the road and pavement surfaces in the town have been received by committee members. The 'Bedfordshire' magazine gives Kingsmede as an example although generally this is thought to be in reasonable condition. Overall it was felt by many members of the public that the general state of the town was the worst it had ever been with poor quality repair work and a complete lack of attention to the vast amount of weeds that are growing up through pavements/drains etc.

7. MANAGING FLOOD RISK IN THE RIVER IVEL CATCHMENT

Another opportunity was offered for members to attend the 'Managing Flood Risk in the River Ivel Catchment meeting at the Sandy Holiday Inn on 27th September 2006. Mrs. Reddick said she had already stated her intention to visit. It was suggested that the literature should be forwarded to Mr. Leith who was not present at this meeting.

8. CHARTER FAIR – 11th OCTOBER 2006

The landlord of the Carriage House Hotel has asked if he can have a stall at the forthcoming Charter Fair to serve refreshments and use the occasion to advertise employment opportunities at his establishment. It was felt that the committee had no jurisdiction over the Charter and as such he is to be advised to contact Mr. Harris the fair's operator.

9. DOG LITTER BIN – LUCAS WAY

An Officer at the District Council informed the Clerk that he felt there was an insufficient need for a dog litter bin to be placed in the Lucas Way area. Bearing this in mind the Officer thought that the D C would not, therefore, pay for a new bin to be installed. However, he further went on to say that if the Town Council paid for a bin themselves at the cost of £158 + VAT, then the D C would not only install one but empty it as well. The committee agreed to buy one at the quoted price.

10. E:MAIL FROM RESIDENT IN KINGFISHER WAY

An e:mail has been received from a resident in Kingfisher Way regarding the ongoing problems with local skateboarders. It appears that not only do they deposit rubbish which the residents have to clear up but they also disrupt oncoming traffic. The resident is to be advised to contact Beds police and insist on a Unique Reference Number for every occasion that she has to phone. The content of her e:mail will be passed on to both the Beat Manager and the ASBO Reduction Officer of Beds Police. A letter is to be written to both the Lower School and the Upper School requesting their assistance in this matter by reporting any incidents that they hear of to either the Town Council or Beds police.

11. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – STMA

The Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer has written to the committee regarding the increasing number of incidents of such behaviour in the community, one of the prime locations being the STMA. The swings on that site have been the subject of discussions on numerous occasions being in mind their proximity to the residents' houses. The ASBO Officer has contacted Wicksteed Leisure with a view to quoting for the cost of either a new installation or removal and re-siting of the current equipment. Apparently the STMA committee is happy for a new installation but it must include reinstatement of the grounds and they are not entirely convinced that it will solve the problem. The ASBO Officer is to be requested to seek suitable funding and then to inform both the Council and the STMA committee when this has been found.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

More positive steps are to be taken regarding the purchase and installation of a Town Notice Board to be sited outside the Scout Hut in the High Street.

The Clerk is requested to contact the Charter Market operator's to establish a.) are they prepared to sell the Charter to the Town Council? b.) what is the likely cost of purchasing said Charter.

A report has been received that only part of the Pinemead area grass has been cut. The contractor is to be told to do a complete cut on his next visit.

The Shefford Sports Trust is to be informed that Mr. Tony Gray is now their Town Council representative.

A complaint has been received regarding the prolific weed growth round the War Memorial. It is believed that remedial action has been taken.

A request has been made for the removal of a dead tree at the Business Park. The County Council's Arboricultural Officer is to be contacted to arrange for it's removal as a matter of public safety.

It was reported that a tree had fallen down in Drovers Spinney. However, information received suggests that a contractor has already been asked to carry out the remedial work.

It has been noted that the Duck Lane Car Park is covered in broken glass. The Council's handyman is to be asked if he would attend to its removal at the earliest opportunity.

The third step from the bottom on the swing bridge is broken and has become dangerous. Repair work is to be carried out within the next three weeks.

It was reported that a car is persistently parking inappropriately in Old Bridge Way. If the driver continues to park in such a manner he/she will be reported to Beds Police for causing an obstruction as it is causing difficulties for HGV drivers.

The bus shelter in Ivel Way is in poor state but it should be noted that an order for either new or replacement shelters has been sent to the County Council.

It is believed that vehicles parking on grass verges in Gresham Way are having an adverse effect on the underground utility services. However, there appears to be some dispute that some contractor's plans show that there aren't any underground utilities in that immediate vicinity.

A question was asked as to why the Vehicle Activated sign in Ampthill Way still had not been installed. Clerk to ascertain when this is likely to happen.

It was reported that the barrier recently erected in Kingfisher Way partially obscures the road sign. Clerk to contact the District Council to see if the sign can be moved.

The litter bin in Churchill Way adjacent to the Esso Filling Station has been uprooted. Clerk to arrange for its re-instatement.

It appears that the recently repainted yellow lines in Kingsmede are incorrect. They are supposed to stop outside No 7 but now continue all the way round. Clerk to check with the C C.

Further reports have also been received regarding unauthorized entry into the proposed Tesco site. Tesco are to be requested to close and secure all possible entry openings at their earliest convenience.

The Community Safety Manager at Mid Beds D C has e:mailed the committee to inform them that there has been a number of burglaries involving access to stables and farm buildings containing horse tack. Owners of such premises are asked to be vigilant and report any such incidents to Beds Police Ringmaster co-ordinator on 01582 473351 who will then pass the information to the 'Officer in the Case'.

The committee received an e:mail from the Member Support Officer (Community) at the County Council informing them of several comments and enquiries she had received from a resident. The committee discussed the salient points and the Clerk will forward on their comments to the Support Officer and request that they are in turn forwarded on to the resident.

Copies of letters have also been received from several residents in Stanford Road. The main content of their letters was the continuing sewerage problems they all encountered in that area which would undoubtedly be exacerbated if and when the proposed development in Stanford Road were to be built. The Clerk will forward copies of their letters to Anglian Water and underline the fact that the Town Council also had similar concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.
