

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Holmes, Messrs. Fisher, Dear, Gray, Rance, Coward and Leith. County Councillor Younger, District Councillors Brown and Chapman, PC Busby.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs. Reddick, Messrs. Steeples, Wren and Smith.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> December 2006 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

This was given by PC Busby who listed the various categories of recent crime statistics which had taken place in the town and further informed members that in future information to the public would become more limited.

**6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reiterated his request for more volunteers to assist with the Summer Gala on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Letters of thanks have been received from some of the pupils at the Shefford Lower School regarding the high visibility arm bands recently distributed to them.

The Mayor requested that members should give some thought as to which committees they would like to serve on in the new Council year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007.

7.2 Various publications : Clerks & Councils Direct, Horizon.

7.3 Letter from the county Council informing members that works will take place to the surface water pipe adjacent to the junction on Kingsmede and Southbridge Street from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January for approximately three working days.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

Finance and Policy of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

## **9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Younger informed those present that the County Council Officers had recently had a successful meeting with Amey's regarding Highways etc. The Bedford crossing had also been further discussed but is likely to be an ongoing situation.

It was reported that both the Shefford Lower School and Robert Bloomfield Middle School were both deemed to be excellent and education for pupils up to age 13 was virtually the best in the county.

Cllr. Younger informed members that the Planning and Environment committee would shortly receive a planning application from the County Council for an extension to form 3 additional classrooms, toilets and storage space in respect of the Robert Bloomfield Middle School.

The County Council's bid in respect of becoming a Unitary Authority is now in and their auditors anticipate that if it is successful there will be a saving of several million pounds.

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Chapman informed members that it hoped that in future town and Parish Councils will be informed of licensing applications and will be able to comment accordingly.

The District Council is going to view the services they deliver with climate change very much in mind.

Cllr. Brown reported that he had asked Anglian Water to check on the possibility that the 4 inch sewer shown on their plan outside nos. 5-15 Bedford Road was causing a bottleneck. Their initial response had been that there was an error in the plan and that the sewer is actually a 6 inch pipe but they are going to re-check. Original drawings of 1957 do actually show a 6 inch pipe so Anglian Water may be correct in their assumption. Cllr. Brown further reported that Anglian Water have just finished a survey of the sewerage infrastructure in Shefford and are awaiting results. A meeting has been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> February and it is hoped that further information will be available particularly with regard to Bedford Road and Stanford Road.

Cllr. Brown informed members that the District Council is responsible for providing gypsy and traveller sites in the Mid Beds area and by 2020 an additional 20 sites will have to be found.

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Cllr. Chapman reported that there will be an enquiry in the middle of March regarding the Centre Parcs application which is likely to last for ten days.

Cllr. Chapman further reported that incorrect licensing details had been displayed inside the premises of the Esso station. Fortunately the error had been spotted and correct details are now displayed.

#### **11. ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

#### **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A 'Planting Licence' is to be requested from the County Council in respect of the area of land adjacent to Kingsmede.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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