

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH JULY 2007

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Holmes and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Dear, Gray, Steeples, Pollard, Coward and Wren. District Councillors Birt and Brown. County Councillor Younger.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. King, Leith and Smith. PC Busby and District Councillor Chapman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the 29th June 2007 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given as PC Busby was unable to attend the meeting as both he and Shefford's dedicated PCSO were required for duty elsewhere in the county. This gave the members serious concerns as to how meaningful was the Beds Police Management commitment to the town. Beds police to be made aware of the members' concerns accordingly.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed those present that there will be a small tea party at 2.45 p.m. in the Methodist Hall on 29th July to mark the investiture of the Gala Queen and Princess.

The Shefford Express Playtrain and carriage sited at the St. Michael's play area had been fully unveiled by children from the Lower School on 19th July. Light refreshments and a cake were served at the rear of the church and it was noted that coincidentally this year marks the 150th anniversary of the railway coming to the town.

At this point Cllr. Birt declared an interest in the next matter and left the room

The Tesco Express retail and filling station in Ivel Road has applied for a licence to allow liquor sales to take place between 06.00 hrs. and midnight. The Mayor proposed that this Council objects to the granting of this licence on the grounds that it is not a suitable outlet or location for the sale of alcohol during those extended hours i.e. concern over public safety, late night vandalism and danger to the children from broken glass and alcohol residues left in the children's play area.

Cllr. Birt returned to the meeting.

The Mid Beds D C's Portfolio Holder for Planning has been invited to attend the next Town Council's planning meeting on 5th September. As yet no reply has been received. The recent announcement relating to the unitary authority makes it all the more important that we make our concerns known to the planners and also get to know what they have in mind for our community.

The statement that despite the current problems of flooding, the government is going to allow indiscriminate development of flood plains makes it vitally important that we have good communication links with the next tier of local government. All Councillors are welcome to attend the meeting and/or submit any questions, problems, statements etc. to the clerk in order that an ordered list of questions can be put to the Portfolio Holder and his team.

There will be no formal sub-committee meetings during August. However, the Mayor warned that this is frequently the time that some 'developers' submit plans that might be contentious. During this period the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Planning and Environment committee will review any plans that have been submitted and make any appropriate comments. Other members of the Planning committee will be contacted if it is considered that a wider opinion is required.

The Mayor wished everybody a restful month and to return ready for the excitement of the plans for the new unitary authority.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Notice of Application from Mid Beds D C for a new premises licence in respect of Tesco Stores Ltd at the Shefford by-pass.

7.2 Information from Macmillan Cancer Support regarding the *World's Biggest Coffee Morning* to be held on Friday 28th September 2007.

7.3 Mid Beds D C Forward Plan – 1 August 2007 to 30 November 2007.

7.4 Mid Beds Community Plan-Mid and Long Term Action Plan Summary Progress Report May-July 2007.

7.5 Various publications : Watch Wide News Summer 2007, The Playing Field, Bedfordshire, Local Councils Update, Hurricane, Clerk & Councils Direct, Standards Board for England-Bulletin 34, Local Council Review, Freeplay, Countryside Voice, Bedfordshire Community Transport Handbook, Drinking Water Quality Summary Report 2006-Anglian Water, Keeping Water Healthy-Anglian Water, Mid Beds Local Strategic Partnership Newsletter-Summer 2007, Adult Learning-Beds CC, EEAPTC News, Children's Services-Beds C C, Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan-Building Sustainable Communities.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 4th and 18th July 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 11th July 2007

Finance and Policy of 18th July 2007.

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The RECOMMENDATION to adopt the Model Code of Conduct including Para. 12(2) was agreed by the full Council.

The RECOMMENDATION that the Town Council's *Confident Communities Fund* allocation should be split between part-funding of a PCSO and CCTV coverage was agreed by the full Council.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Younger informed those present that he had attended a meeting with some residents of Town Meadow Drive regarding the general nuisance behaviour that persists on numerous occasions in the car park. The Town Council is presently enquiring into the possibility of introducing a by-law to stop ball games being played there as there is also a risk that a serious accident could occur either by vehicles maneuvering in the car park or youths running out into the road to retrieve a ball.

The County Council is to spend money on upgrading both the road and pavement at Riverside. Further improvements are also to be carried out on the area outside the garage in Amphill Road will close down for one week.

The School Crossing Patrol Officer in Amphill Road is continuing to be plagued by speeding motorists who do not observe the speed limit and similarly do not take precautionary measures when approaching the zebra crossing. The Patrol Officer has been requested to report on any driver that doesn't adhere to the prevailing conditions or drive in a safe and responsible manner. Beds police have indicated that they are prepared to prosecute errant drivers.

Amey's, the County Council's highways contractor has recently employed a new Chief Engineer for this area. The Engineer has promised to investigate the current condition of the road surface in Ivel Road.

Councillor Younger said he had attended an excellent prize giving ceremony at the Middle School. Many of the students has have already made good progress with their studies and bearing that in mind it was suggested that perhaps the Town Council would like to contribute a trophy for the best academic achievement by both a male and a female student.

It is understood that the Tesco store in Flitwick should really have been a larger store and further work is to be carried out there in due course. The Mid Beds M P Nadine Dorries is to write to the Chief Executive of Tesco about the situation regarding their proposed retail outlet in Shefford. It is further understood that the Chief Executive has promised to reply. Information received has indicated that once the work has been completed in Flitwick it will then be time for Tesco to turn their attention to Shefford. However, it would be a mistake to think that any work to the Flitwick store is imminent and obviously any work on the Shefford site is even further away.

Cllr. Younger offered his apologies for both the August and September full Council meetings.

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10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Next Tuesday the District Council Leaders will meet to ratify answers to the various questions regarding the recent unitary announcement prior to making a formal report to the general public.

An appeal is to be made regarding the site at Beadlow Manor. It is understood that the statutory time limit has now expired and one major sticking point is the necessity

for a roundabout to be constructed as this is deemed to be the best way to slow traffic down on a road renowned for speeding vehicles and it would also be the best way for vehicles to exit the site.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A report of a bottle being thrown at the window of a bungalow in Ivel Road was noted. The incident was forwarded to the Aragon Housing Association but as yet has not been reported to the police.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.
