

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH JUNE 2007

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes. Messrs. Dear, Pollard, Steeples, Coward, Fisher, Leith, King, Smith and Wren.
County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillors Messrs. Birt and Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Reddick and Clark. Messrs. Gray and Barham. PC Busby.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of 25th May were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby was unable to attend but total Recorded Crime Incidents and Anti-social Behaviour Incidents for the period April to June were read out to the members.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the members that both he and the clerk had attended a meeting with two officers from the District Council, a representative from both the Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership and Quadrant Security Group. There is a need to change the current CCTV service provider as not only have they have indicated that their prices will double over the next year but doubt has also arisen about their surveillance capability. By going into partnership with the new company we will be joining other communities in the mid Beds area with the D C overseeing the whole project. Mr Mackin went on to explain that the current camera in the High Street needs to be updated and replaced with a camera of a higher specification. Overall the new company is offering lower surveillance costs which will see a saving. It was agreed that the Town Council should proceed with the new company.

The new Mid Beds D C's Portfolio Holder for Planning is to be invited to attend a meeting of the Planning and Environment committee to answer their concerns regarding numerous planning issues in the town.

The new Playtrain is now in situ at the St. Michael's Play Area. It is anticipated that there will be an unveiling ceremony with some Lower School children in attendance before the end of this term.

Mr. Wren gave a brief report on the recent Summer Gala. It is thought that there will be a £1,200 to £1,500 surplus. Some of that money will be distributed to groups within the community, the remaining funds will be used to run next year's Gala on 8th June. Mr. Birt was thanked for organizing the magnificent flyover of the Lancaster Bomber which was appreciated by all who attended. Volunteers are requested to help with next year's Gala and insurance for other groups is also being looked at.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 A letter from Arlesey Town Council stating that Cllr. Hugh Harper is the Town Mayor and Ian Delgarno is the Vice Chairman.

7.2 A letter from Mr. Peter Fisher thanking the Council for his certificate in recognition of 20 years serving on the Town Council.

7.3 A letter from Aragon Housing in partnership with the County Council advising on small grants from the Up 2 U Youth Bank.

7.4 Leaflet from Beds C C containing information for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0 – 19 years old.

7.5 Annual report 2006/7 from the Mid Beds Citizens Advice Bureau.

7.6 Mid Beds D C Forward Plan – 1 July 2007 to 31 October 2007.

7.7 A Guide to Public Service Contracting and the Third Sector.

7.8 Various publications : Bedfordshire Parent Partnership News – Summer 2007, Horizon, Beds-Spread June 2007, Bedfordshire Matters CPRE, Local Councils Update, Woottons What Where and When of Waste, Commen Tree.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 6th and 20th June 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 13th June 2007.

Finance and Policy of 20th June 2007.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The question of police issues was raised and it was generally agreed that there was a need for more visible policing.

Cllr. Younger informed those present that that the reports appertaining to The County Council's bid for a County Unitary had now been forwarded and a response is now expected towards the end of July.

The County Council is to re-introduce a fund for small projects and if the County Unitary bid is successful it is anticipated that each County Councillor will get £10,000 each year to spend on any viable projects.

Cllr. Younger stated that he would look at the reasons for the delay in completing the bus stop in Amphill Road and would also follow up the S106 agreement with regard to the Clifton Road bus stop.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Chapman explained that later this year the District Council would be looking to re-evaluate what it considers to be most important to it and stated that he would be happy to receive any ideas that the Town Council would like to be added. A list of current targets is to be made available.

Tesco has been requested to clear the site in the High Street and also state their intentions as to whether or not they are still planning to use it for retail purposes.

A funding request for 'play' has been made to the National Lottery.

The Cranfield University students have reported back on their findings on the MBDC carbon footprint.

A recommendation that nothing should be done about ID cards unless legally required to do so has been forwarded to the Executive.

Cllr. Birt showed the members a copy of the Minutes of the Local Transport Plan Joint Member Meeting held on 6th June 2007. Several local issues were raised, namely, the Chicksands cycleway, the Bedford Road pedestrian crossing and the appalling state of South Bridge Street. A copy of the responses was also shown to the members. An enquiry was made about progress on the air-conditioning units on the Bridge P H. It was noted that the Country Properties sign was still in place.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

The Annual Accounts for the Year 2006/7 as Recommended by the Finance and Policy committee were adopted by the full Council.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions was asked as to what action could the residents take in order to state their objections to the proposed Ivel Road development and what was the Town Council's view. Any objections should be forwarded to the Head of Planning at the District Council. Concerns were also raised about access.
