

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison and Reddick. Messrs. Dear, Steeples, Gray, Coward, Fisher and Leith. County Councillor Mr. Younger, District Councillors Messrs. Brown, Chapman and Birt. PCSO Rachel Keen.

**1. TO ELECT A TOWN MAYOR**

Proposed Mr. Gray, seconded Mr. Fisher and agreed unanimously that Mr. P. Mackin be elected Town Mayor.

**2. TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR**

Proposed Mr. Dear, seconded Mr. Gray and agreed unanimously that Mrs. J. Harrison be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Mesdames Holmes and Clark. PC Busby.

**4. TO ELECT A FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Proposed Mr. Gray, seconded Mr. Fisher and agreed unanimously that Mr. C. Steeples be elected Finance & Policy committee chairman.

**5. TO ELECT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES**

For a full list of representatives see page 1515 : 5/2007.

The names of the current serving members on the following committees were read out :

Mrs. Clark had previously informed the members that she would like to serve on the Planning and Environment committee.

**6. TO CONFIRM STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were confirmed without amendment.

The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are ex-officio members of all committees.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

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**COMMITTEES** (Current until end of May 2007 Committee Elections)

<u>FINANCE &amp; POLICY</u>	<u>SERVICES &amp; MAINTENANCE</u>	<u>PLANNING &amp; ENVIRONMENT</u>
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Steeple (Chairman)	Wren (Chairman)	Holmes (Chairman)
Mackin	Coward (Vice Chair)	Gray (Vice Chair)
Harrison	Mackin	Harrison
Holmes	Reddick	Mackin
Wren	Dear	Leith
Coward	Harrison	Fisher
Gray	Smith	Steeple
	Clark	

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**OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES**

STMA (1) Mrs. Harrison

Wanderbus (2) Mr. Steeple, Mrs. Clark.

Crime Prevention Liason Officer (1) Mr. Gray

Town Band Trustees (2) Mr. Gray, Mr. Coward

Town Centre Partnership (2) Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Dear

Newsline (4) Mr. Mackin, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Steeple, Mrs. Holmes

Bloomfield Games Association (2) Mr. Mackin, Mr. Leith

Shefford Sports Trust (1) Mr. Gray.

Joint Burial Committee – All Members of the Council

Appointed until date shown

Robert Lucas Trust (3) Mrs. Harrison (July '08), Mrs. McGregor (July '09), Mrs. Faircloth (July '10)

Governor of Shefford Lower School (1) Mr. Mackin (Feb 2008)

Shefford Community Hall Managing Trustee (1) Mr. Fisher

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## **1. APOLOGIES**

Mesdames Holmes and Clark, PC Busby.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 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. However, PCSO Rachel Keen informed the members of her progress and training to date and highlighted some of the incidents she had attended.

## **6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked the members for their confidence in re-electing him for a further term and promised to do his utmost to further the aims of the Council.

It is likely that more tasks will be handed down to Town and Parish Councils whoever ends up winning the 'unitary authority' race. Hopefully there will be more money to fund any future operations and that money will need to be spent wisely as there are undoubtedly challenging times ahead.

The Gala committee is still looking for more helpers, both on the day and the run-up to the event.

The Mayor presented a certificate to Mr. Peter Fisher in recognition of his 20 years service on the Town Council.

It had been hoped that the Mid Beds District Council's Portfolio Holder would attend the next Planning and Environment committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June but recent information has indicated that the new Portfolio Holder is Mr. K. Matthews who is unaware of the meeting at the present time. A new invitation is to be sent to Mr. Matthews.

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## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Better Buses for Bedfordshire Survey – Beds C C,

7.2 Invitation from the BRCC to an Energy Efficiency Workshop – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007 from 6.30 p.m. The Old School Cardington.

7.3 Invitation from the Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association to attend a Play Area Management Seminar 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the Princess Charlotte Seminar Room, Shuttleworth from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

7.4 Invitation from MBDC to attend a Youth Participation Members Training Event on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at the Council Chamber, Chicksands from 6.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

7.5 Invitation from the Beds Assc'n of Town & Parish Councils to attend a New Councillor Induction Training Course at either Barton le Clay, Wilden or Houghton Conquest on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July respectively from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

7.6 Invitation to attend a Mid Beds Community Safety Conference at the D C offices on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 from 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

7.7 Invitation from MBDC to attend a Local Government Review meeting at Priory House, Chicksands on 5<sup>th</sup> June from 7.00 p.m. to a 7.30 p.m. start.

7.8 Information from the County Council informing members that Councillor Robin Younger has been appointed Chairman of the County Council.

7.9 Information from Biggleswade Town Council that Cllr. Peter Vickers has been elected as Town Mayor of Biggleswade and Cllr. Peter Woodward has been appointed as Deputy Town Mayor.

7.10 Mid Beds D C Forward Plan – 1 June 2007 to 30 September 2007.

7.11 Various Publications – Fieldwork from CPRE , Mid Beds Local Strategic Partnership Newsletter Spring 2007, Beds-Spread, Hurricane, Bedfordshire, Get Out from Beds C C, Clerks & Councils Direct, The Playing Field, Local Councils Update, Wootton's What Where and When of Waste, Building Strong Communities, Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007-2008.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Finance and Policy of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

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## **9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Councillor Younger informed the members that he was pleased to hear that the Town Council intended to urge the County Council to allocate more funds to the Highways Department and further expressed his enthusiasm that representatives of the Highways Department were going to attend the quarterly meetings of the Services and Maintenance committee.

The issue of the Bedford Road crossing is still being discussed with other consultative authorities.

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Birt informed the members that the residents of Midland Close were concerned about articulated lorries reversing into the road and anybody with appropriate information about the situation should contact both him and Bedfordshire police.

With regard to the Gala on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Cllr. Birt said that a Lancaster bomber aeroplane would be flying over the STMA field at approximately 4.25 p.m. on its way to Shuttleworth. The aircraft will be flown by Squadron Leader Reid.

Cllr. Brown urged the members to have another look at the answers they gave in respect of the Infrastructure Deficits Questionnaire which had previously been completed in July 2005 as he felt some of the comments could be updated.

Cllr. Brown informed members that he had looked at the Planning Application relating to the building of three dwellings in Elm Road. Any residents with concerns should contact a Planning Officer in order to give him a reason to visit in order ascertain if the conditions under which the permission was granted are actually being adhered to with regard to the occupancy.

A new issue of Horizon is soon to be delivered to every household in Mid Beds and comments on the Unitary Authority will be welcome.

Cllr. Chapman informed members that he was the Chairman of the Scrutiny committee. The District Council will be offering presentations on various topics, namely, the New Model Code of Conduct, Community Safety, Waste Management and Youth Participation.

## **11. ACCOUNTS**

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

## **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

As a matter of interest Cllr. Chapman said that the Shefford Cricket Club had obtained a 100% success on both the matches they had played this season.

Yet again concerns were raised about spillages from HGV'S in Stanford Road.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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