

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2007

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark. Messrs. Coward, Dear, Fisher, Pollard, Gray and Wren.
District Councillors Messrs. Birt and Brown. PC Busby and PCSO Keen.

1. APOLOGIES

Mesdames Holmes and Reddick. Mr. Leith, County Councillor Younger and District Councillor Chapman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 26th October 2007 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby reported on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in Shefford for the period April to November.

Car crime is still an ongoing problem and PC Busby warned that a lot of cars are accessed due to a careless storage of keys within the household. Satellite navigation systems are still being targeted by car thieves as are laptops and other items left displayed on car seats.

6. GALA REPORT

Mr Wren updated those present on the current status of next year's gala. At present it is anticipated that it will be held at the Robert Bloomfield Middle School premises but negotiations are underway with the STMA committee to enquire if it can be held there as in previous years. It is understood that there will be a meeting in early December whereby it is hoped that a decision will be made. More volunteers are still required.

7. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the members that this was the last occasions whereby he could receive names for both people and organizations to add to his Christmas card list.

The Mayor said that he had attended a CCTV meeting at the Stevenage Borough Council Offices along with the Deputy Mayor and Clerk. The quality of the coloured

images was extremely clear and identification of would-be criminals was now far easier to spot. The Radio Link in some shops means that information appertaining to shoplifters etc. could be passed to the Control Room instantly as well as to other shops in the scheme thus creating a rapid response from officers on duty.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Invitation from MBDC re Chairman's Charity Christmas Carol Concert – Council Offices, Chicksands, Friday 14th December at 7.30 p.m.

8.2 E;mail from Chief Executive and Leader of the District Council re the current status of the unitary bid.

8.3 E;mail from the County Council Highways Dept – temporary road closure of Clifton Road – 7 days from Monday 3rd December – 24 hrs – access may be allowed from time to time according to local signing.

8.4 Mid Beds Forward Plan – 1 December 2007 to 31 March 2008.

8.5 Various publications : Clerks & Councils Direct, Local Councils Update, Hurricane, Watch Wide News, Freeplay, Horizon, Bedfordshire Matters, Beds & Luton Voluntary & Community Sector Infrastructure Consortium November 2007, Local Council Review. Beds-Spread.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 7th and 21st November 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 14th November 2007.

Finance and Policy of 21st November 2007.

10. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

As Cllr. Younger was unable to attend the meeting he e:mailed the following report to the members :

Beds Highways are still anxious to resolve the subsidence problems in Ivel Road and two of their engineers have a high degree of knowledge in such matters.

The roundabout at the top of Ampthill Road and the sight lines across to the other side of the A507 is being looked at with the other roundabout down the road to Chicksands. This is exactly the same problem and is exacerbated by the two roundabouts being so small and getting the correct hazard signage in place.

Cllr. Younger stated that he will again be on official duty for his Shefford Library Advice Centre meeting on 7th December and will be sending one of his officers to stand in for him. If Town/District Councillors also wish to attend then they are more than welcome.

1584 : 11/2007

The issue of the pedestrian crossing at Chicksands is also getting nearer. The order for a speed limit will be published in a few weeks time and following the statutory notice period for objections, the County will proceed in procuring a speed limit for the stretch of road between the two roundabouts. When that is done, the proposals for a pedestrian crossing will be published and following the statutory notice period for

objections then a pedestrian crossing will be built. It has taken a lot of pressure and angst and Cllr. Younger is not guaranteeing any set time when it will be completed but the above is a summary of the requisite procedures.

11. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

District Councillor Brown informed those present that the Local Development framework replaced the Local Plan. Numerous site allocations are being considered between now and 2021. Not all notified sites will necessarily be used but there will be substantial development at the Wixams and it is hoped that many jobs will be created from these developments thus reducing the daily commute out of Bedfordshire. Town Councils will be asked to comment on these sites and every household in the district will be given an opportunity to respond.

Due to the fact that the Aragon Housing Association has been so successful it has now been requested to manage part of the South Northamptonshire's housing stock alongside nine other Housing Associations.

During December the Executive will make a decision regarding the continuance or otherwise of the Food Waste Programme.

With regard to the siting of the air conditioning units at the Old Brewery site, Cllr. Brown stated that the enforcement notice cannot be implemented at the present time as the site owner is in administration.

Cllr. Birt warned that the expansion of Leighton Linlade is generally heading into this direction. This will mean that the A5 will become even more congested than it is now.

12. ACCOUNTS

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

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that the firework display had been spectacular and the railway theme was superb with over two thousand people attending.

It was further reported that there had been a really good turnout at the Remembrance Service on 11th November.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.