

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT

Mrs. Harrison presided over Mesdames Clark, King and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Dear, Steeples, Pollard, Coward and Wren.
District Councillor Brown, County Councillor Younger, PC Busby and PCSO's Richardson and Keen.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes. Messrs. Mackin, Gray and Leith. District Councillors Chapman and Birt.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 31st August 2007 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby reported on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in Shefford for the month of September.

The new Tesco Express store is now fully operational and PC Busby suggested that maybe Tesco's would put a request to purchase the adjacent land as parking is already a problem and added that Beds Police will not tolerate additional parking in Ivel Road as it is already severely congested.

PC Busby asked the members if they were aware of any people that might have witnessed an incident of indecent exposure in Shefford Road, Clifton.

All incidents of 'cold calling' should be reported to the clerk who in turn will contact Beds Police and Beds Trading Standards.

Consideration is to be given to making parts of the town 'alcohol free'. A list of street names will need to be compiled before the initiative can be implemented.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Harrison gave information about the 'Big Picture' initiative which is predominantly being organized by Beds Police. The event will take place on Friday and Saturday 26th and 27th October at the Fire Station in Ivel Road. Numerous authorities will be attending including the Community Safety Group, Trading Standards, the Town Council, Shefford Library, Age Concern, Carers in Bedfordshire and Beds Police. There will be an opportunity to meet the PCSO's and to have property UV marked. Tesco's will be providing free refreshments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 An invitation for new Councillors to attend an Induction Training Seminar on 21st October from 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. at Cardington Village Hall.

7.2 An invitation to attend a Parish & Town Councils LAA Reference Group to be held at the Rufus Centre on 19th October from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

7.3 Forward Plan from Beds County Council – 1 October 2007 to 31 January 2008.

7.4 Recorded Crime Incidents for Shefford – April to September 2007.

7.5 An invitation from the Bloomfield Games Association to attend the launch of the new upgrade of the MUGA on 18th October at 6.15 p.m.

7.6 Mid Beds Forward Plan – 1 October 2007 to 31 January 2008.

7.7 Information from Beds police that during September/October their Income Generation Officer will be making contact with Towns/Parishes to deliver details of new partnership proposals.

7.8 A management report from Beds Police regarding the current work of the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the Ampthill/Flitwick I.L.N.A.

7.9 Various publications : Town & Parish Standard – Issue One – September 2007 from the Standards Board for England, CommonTree, Clerk & Councils Direct, Local Councils Update, Bedfordshire, Bulletin 35 – Standards Board for England.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 5th and 19th September 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 12th September 2007.

Finance and Policy of 19th September 2007.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Younger informed the members that he had had several conversations with the Chief Constable which were much in line with the Town Council's recent letters airing their concerns about policing and budgets. However, it is hoped that the Chief Constable will meet representatives from Town and Parish Councils, District Councillors and County Councillors in due course and a date for a meeting is to be announced shortly.

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The Unitary bid still has not been decided but a judicial review will be held on 12th October 2007. Cllr. Younger then went on to explain the intricacies of what a judicial review is and what it actually meant in this context.

At this point Mrs. Harrison informed the members that she had recently had a meeting with the County Council's area engineer with a view to highlighting various areas of concern in the town. These included Ivel Road, which the C C is still monitoring and the Bus Stop in Clifton Road where the actual sign is on the lamp post and not on the bus stop.

Cllr. Younger informed members that he still had a £2,500 budget to fund any worthwhile projects in the Shefford, Campton and Meppershall area. Potentially any worthy projects could receive up to £200 each.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Cllr. Brown who informed those present that although the DC's Planning Department was now fully staffed the general uncertainty surrounding the Unitary bid wasn't helpful.

Cllr. Brown also reported that there wasn't a breach of the conditions under which the three bungalows in Elm Road were being run.

Cllr. Brown enquired as to whether or not anybody knew the reason for railings being placed the Aragon housing properties as it was felt that the railings on one particular property had an adverse effect on the fire escape. The matter is to be referred to the Planning and Environment committee meeting on 3rd October 2007 as it was thought that planning permission would be required for the erection of such railings.

It was also reported that the Town Council had not received any response to the questions raised at their meeting with the Development Control Manager at the District Council. Clerk to contact the Development Control Officer at the D C accordingly.

Cllr. Brown urged members to make full use of the brown food waste bins as the trial year is now in its final quarter. It is hoped that the initiative will continue as Central Government's waste targets need to be met.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.
