

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 18TH APRIL 2007

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Clark. Messrs. Mackin, Gray and Coward.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Wren.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – BEDFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES

A request for funding has been received from Bedfordshire Libraries towards the cost of children's events for this coming financial year.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the sum of £150 be awarded accordingly.

4. TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

The committee has received copies of the Notice – Result of Un-contested Election as well as the District Council Notice of Poll or Result of Un-contested election, as appropriate from the District Council. As the time for candidates to withdraw their nomination has passed, the Town Council is now three members short of the required number. The new Town Council has until Friday 22nd June 2007 to co-opt suitable people to fill the vacancies.

5. ANNUAL INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Annual Insurance Renewal has been received from Allianz Cornhill which includes an addendum regarding the necessity to carry out an annual tree inspection.

6. REPAIR TO SUPA NOVA – PLAY AREA AT THE STMA

The Supa Nova situated at the STMA has been damaged by vandals. The Town Council's Play Area contractor is unable to repair it and has suggested that it should be repaired by the manufacturer due to the complexity of the equipment.

It is understood that the STMA committee are currently checking their insurance cover in order to ascertain if they are covered for 'damage by vandals'.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that they pay for the cost of repair.

In the event that the STMA committee has the appropriate insurance cover then it is understood that they will reimburse the Town Council.

7. END OF 3 YEAR CONTRACT – SHEFFORD NEWSLINE MAGAZINE

As the agreed three year contract in respect of the printing and publishing of the Shefford Newsline Magazine is nearing its conclusion, the committee is to send out Invitations to Tender for the renewal of the contract for the next three years.

8. LETTER OF SUPPORT – BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY UNITARY

After some deliberation the committee agreed to send a letter of support to the County Council to inform them of their support for a County Unitary.

9. DRAFT LETTER TO CHIEF CONSTABLE OF BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

The committee is to send a letter to the Chief Constable expressing concern about the recent incidents of crime in the town. e.g. the betting shop, the off-licence and the bakery. It is understood that their resources are stretched throughout the county but it is felt from information received that residents are not getting the overall response that is warranted. However, the letter is to state that this is in no way a reflection on the Shefford Beat Manager as he is doing an excellent on all incidents reported to him.

10. YOUTH ACTING UP ROAD TRIP – MBDC

Information has been received from the District Council's Youth Participation Officer that they would like the names of any contacts the committee may have that would be interested in participating in youth events. The Officer is to be directed towards the Aragon Housing's Youth Officer.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that so far only one nomination (female) has been received as a possible recipient of the OVPPF Cup.

The committee is in receipt of a copy of The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007. A copy is to be issued to all members along with a copy of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor.

The Terms of Reference in respect of both the Planning and Environment committee and the Services and Maintenance committee are to be examined to ensure that the roles don't overlap. It is intended that this will take place after the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the Clerk's Employment Contract as negotiated by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks be adopted.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.
