

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY 2007

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Coward and Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. ALLIANZ CORNHILL

Allianz Cornhill has informed the Council that due to the fact that they have been notified of a claim that Council owned trees have allegedly caused damage to a building, there will be an additional condition attached to the policy. With effect from 1st June 2007 it will be a condition precedent to the liability by this policy that an independent examination is made annually of all trees for which the Council is responsible and the said report should be forwarded to them. The inspection must be carried out by persons competent to do so and unless agreed otherwise by the insurer, any work identified must be completed within 60 days of the date of inspection. The insurer is to be requested to advise the committee as to what is their definition of 'competent' and to further advise as to what qualification a contractor would need in order to be deemed as 'acceptable' to them.

4. NOMINATIONS – ANNUAL CIVIC AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

The nominations received in respect of the above awards were discussed at length by the committee prior to a decision being made. The recipients will be notified in due course.

5. REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS – MBDC

The Director of Corporate and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer at the District Council has issued a copy of the above document which was discussed and studied by the committee accordingly. It was noted that responses should be made to the Department of Communities and Local Government by 9th March 2007.

6. SHEFFORD NEWSLINE MAGAZINE

It was further reported that many residents still hadn't received their copy of Newsline. The committee was informed that a new co-ordinator was now in place and Mrs. Harrison said she would give her a complete list of all the street names and the number of copies required per street in the hope that a swifter delivery time can be assured for the next issue.

7. REVIEW OF THE QUALITY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

The Government has now published its Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. The Bill has affected plans for reviewing the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme. If enacted, the Bill is expected to confirm the White Paper commitment to extend the power of well-being to all parish and town councils that satisfy criteria based on the Quality Parish Scheme. All of the following authorities wish to reiterate their commitment to the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme : Defra, NALC, SLLC, LGA, Commission for Rural Communities, Dept. for Communities and Local Government.

8. SALARY REVIEWS

The committee reviewed the salaries of both the Town Meeting Room Bookings Officer and the Council Chamber/TMR cleaner.

The clerk's salary is due for review on or before 1st April 2007.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Fireworks Committee has indicated that they are in need of additional finance. It was suggested that maybe the Council could help by way of paying for something specific. i.e. either the cost of fireworks or the requisite insurance cover. Enquiries are to be made as to either the possible cost of insuring the firework display directly or a 'blanket' insurance to cover several events. e.g. firework display, Summer Gala, Gala procession etc.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.
