

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2007**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Messrs. Gray and Steeples.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. LETTER FROM INTERNAL AUDITOR**

The contents of a letter from the Internal Auditor subsequent to the recent annual audit were read out to the committee. The comments were noted and it was agreed that more emphasis should be placed on Risk Assessments. Bearing this in mind a Risk Assessment Working Group is to be set up.

It was further agreed that all future meetings of this committee would include a full monthly bank reconciliation and a quarterly Actual to Budget analysis.

**4. LETTER FROM BEDS C C LOCAL AREA MANAGER**

Concerns had been previously raised about the ability of the County Council's Mid Beds Area Youth Worker. Those concerns were forwarded to his Local Area Manager who has subsequently replied and confirmed that the matter is being addressed. The situation is to be monitored.

**5. ADOPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT**

Copies of the Model Code of Conduct were distributed to members at the end of May in order that a full knowledge of any changes could be noted. Literature from the Standards Board for England, NALC and the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity indicated that that members' attention should be drawn to the provision to maximize councillors' ability to exercise their democratic rights as indicated in Paragraph 12(2) although this is not mandatory.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council the Code be adopted in full including Para. 12(2).

A copy of that paragraph is appended to these Minutes.

**6. REQUEST FOR A DONATION – VITALISE**

Although a request for a financial donation has been received from Vitalise, the committee decided that they were unable to offer support at this time. The charity is to be directed to the County Council as it was thought that they would be a more likely contributor.

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**7. CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND – BEDS C C**

Documentation has been received from the Leader of the County Council giving information on an initiative which is focused on reducing the fear of crime. The initiative will be known as the *Confident Communities Fund*.

The County Council's Executive has approved the funding of £1,000,000 per annum for three financial years. The funds will be allocated on a population basis.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the Town Council's allocation should be split between part funding of the PCSO and CCTV coverage.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A letter has been received from a resident along with numerous signatures outlining various reasons as to why there was a need for a skatepark in the town. The resident suggested Digswell as a possible site as it was easily accessible from all areas of Shefford. Overall the committee felt that Digswell was not a viable location and the matter is to be further discussed at the next meeting of the Community Safety Group. It was agreed to approach the appropriate planning/development bodies to enquire as to the possibility of having such a facility included in an s106 Agreement.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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