

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH MAY 2007

PRESENT

Mr. Steeples presided over Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Mackin.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Gray and Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Mackin and Mr. Steeples declared an interest in the following item.

3. REQUEST FOR A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION – ACORN PRE-SCHOOL

A request for funding has been received from the Acorn Pre-School, Shefford. The committee was unable to consider the request as they had previously declared an interest thus making it difficult to arrive at an unbiased decision. Although they supported the in principle it was felt that the expansion of the pre-school could be viewed as a commercial operation.

On this basis it is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that the request for funding should be declined.

4. CCTV – TRANSFERRING THE SERVICE

A letter has been received from the Community Services Manager enquiring as to whether or not the Town Council would like to become a partner in the way that both Biggleswade and Sandy Town are, i.e. paying their contribution of the CCTV contract costs to Mid Beds who act as the main client. Overall the committee thought this would be preferable but would like a meeting with the said Officer to discuss the matter further. The clerk is to arrange a meeting.

5. REPLY FROM CHIEF CONSTABLE

The committee had previously written to the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police enquiring as to what measures she had put in place to combat the various crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in the town. The Chief Constable's Personal Assistant replied saying that had requested Chief Superintendent Frost, County Division Commander to respond to the issues raised. A further letter was received from Chief Superintendent Frost informing the committee that he had passed the matter to Inspector Whittred who would contact them in due course. Based on the committee's decision, the clerk is to inform the Chief Constable's P A that neither of those letters is acceptable to them and not what they expected as they had requested a response from the Chief Constable herself.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE re THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH COMMITTEE

As the list of designated responsibilities for each committee has not been updated since 2004, it was decided to see if any amendments were necessary. Several amendments were made along with a suggestion that there could be a need for an additional committee to be formed. A new list including the amendments is to be distributed to members for their consideration and further discussion if required. Once agreement has been reached it will be ratified by the full Council at their meeting on 29th June 2007.

7. OVPPF NOMINATIONS

The committee has received nominations for both a male and a female as suitable recipients of the OVPPF Cup. The nominees are to be contacted to ascertain if they would be prepared to receive the Cup.

8. TOWN NOTICE BOARD

A representative of the Shefford Conservative Association has spoken to the Clerk and agreed in principle that the Association would be prepared to have a town notice board sited on their land. A meeting with a representative of the Town Council is to be arranged in due course.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concerns were raised that the County Council's Youth Worker was showing a lack of interest regarding his responsibilities towards the youth of Shefford. The Clerk is to contact his Manager to inform her of the committee's concerns.

A representative of the STMA has enquired as to whether or not the Town Council would give their permission for the Association's land to be surveyed with a view to having it registered. The committee had no objection in principle and gave permission for the STMA committee to make further enquiries and report back accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.
