

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT

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

1. APOLIGIES

Mrs. Holmes. Messrs. Gray and Wren.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. GRANT AID CONTRIBUTIONS

The committee had previously received a request for funding from a trampolining and gymnastics group who had also sought financial assistance from the District Council. Information received indicated that the District Council had insisted that the Town Council should also contribute. The committee registered their concern about this situation to the District Council and suggested that any application for funding should be considered on its own merits and worthiness. The decision as to whether financial assistance should or shouldn't be offered by one authority ought not depend on the decision of another authority. The committee will re-consider the application for funding at their next meeting subsequent to further information being received from both the applicant and the BRCC. A response to the committee's concerns has now been received from the Director of Community Services at the District Council.

4. DEVELOPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS – L/A CLIFTON ROAD

A letter has regarding the above has been received from the Play & Open Space Officer at the District Council. An important part of the development control process requires housing developers to provide the appropriate type and level of public open space to serve the residents of the development. The D C currently requires three types of open space to be provided on all new developments over ten dwellings, namely, Children's Play Space, Outdoor Sporting Space and Amenity Open Space. In cases where the development cannot accommodate the three types of open space, the developer will be asked to make a contribution towards the relevant open space needs of the village/area as identified in the Recreational Open Space Strategy. The number of occupants of the development will hold is used to calculate the amount of each contribution, which is then secured under a Section 106 Agreement. The letter then went on to explain the contributions regarding the land fronting Clifton Road (application no. 06/00997).

5. PREVIOUS CLERK'S GRATUITY – H M REVENUE & CUSTOMS

Further correspondence has been received from H M Revenue & Customs regarding the above. The Council's Accountants have been contacted to request further information in the hope that the matter can be concluded in the next few weeks.

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6. EFFECTIVENESS OF PCSO'S

Inspector Whittred of Beds police is to be requested to provide a report on how the police force perceives the role and overall effectiveness of the PCSO's generally as the committee will shortly be setting their precept for 2008/9. This is not meant to be an analysis of Shefford's own PCSO's who are serving the town very well but to ascertain the police's position on the future of PCSO's and to further enquire if there are likely to be any changes in respect of their funding or a withdrawal of the service.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Clark showed the members a draft sketch and plan of the New Primary Care Facility for Hitchin Road.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.
