

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11TH JULY 2007**

PRESENT

Mr. Coward presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, King and Reddick. Messrs. Mackin, Wren (part) and Pollard.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Dear.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point Mr. Coward welcomed Howard Lavers, the Managing Director of Crestel Partnerships and Tracy Williams, Director of Development and New Business at Aldwyck Housing Association who arrived to discuss the development of 112 dwellings on Old Bridge Way. The development will include 32 affordable housing units and half a million pounds has been spent on enhancements.

The committee doubted that the infrastructure could support the inevitable increase in population as the lower and middle schools are virtually full to capacity as is the current health centre. Added to that was the fact that town's drainage system was already overloaded and the public transport system is barely adequate.

Numerous topics were discussed and overall it was agreed that there was a degree of common ground between the various bodies involved with the development and it was hoped that overall this would lead to a good working relationship.

Mr Lavers and Ms. Williams were thanked for their attendance after which they left

3. HIGHWAYS REPORT

The June report for highway repairs has been received from the County Council and those items appertaining to Shefford were noted accordingly.

4. PLAY AREA REPORTS

The June Play Area reports have been received from the contractor and all issues requiring attention were noted. It was reported that the new litter bin had now been installed in the St. Michael's play area.

5. HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

It was agreed that the Town Council's allowance for highways should be spent on refurbishing the red tarmac areas on the approach roads into the town. The designated roads are : Amphill Road - Bedford Road – Hitchin Road and Stanford Road. The Bedfordshire Highways Technician has been asked to provide estimates.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk and a representative from the Environment Agency visited The Meads to ascertain if it would be possible to lay 'grassmat' surfacing there along with a sport/play facility. In principle the EA agreed that such a facility would be possible but they would need to monitor it at all stages. The EA will be sending their comments by e:mail to the next meeting of this committee.

Concerns have been received about a property in Lucas Way. It was reported that the garden is covered in dog faeces and there is a fly and maggot infestation round the wheelie bins which it is understood have not been emptied for several weeks. The Aragon Housing Association is to be requested to carry out the necessary measures and a copy of the letter is to be sent to the Environmental Health Officer at the District Council.

Cllr. King reported on a recent youth event she had attended recently and outlined other youth and young peoples events planned for the future.

Concerns were raised about the prolific growth of vegetation in the Churchill Way/Kingfisher Road area. It is believed that the land is owned by the District Council and enquiries are to be made accordingly.

Several reports have been received about teachers speeding in their cars along Bloomfield Drive. The clerk is to contact the Headteacher to ask if he would kindly request his staff to drive at an appropriate speed on all approach roads to the school.

The clerk is to seek advice on how to introduce a bye-law in order to 'legalize' the 'No Ball Games' sign in the car park as numerous complaints have been received from both residents living nearby and motorists entering and leaving the area.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.
