

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13th JUNE 2007**

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Reddick and King. Messrs. Dear, Coward and Wren.

1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

Proposed by Mrs. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Dear and agreed unanimously that Mr. Wren be elected Chairman of the Services and Maintenance committee

2. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN

Proposed by Mrs. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Dear and agreed unanimously that Mr. Coward be elected Vice Chairman of the Services and Maintenance committee.

Mr. Wren then presided over the rest of the meeting and welcomed Nicola King as the newly co-opted member of the Council.

3. APOLOGIES

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. NOTICE BOARD – ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH

A further response has been received from the Vicar of St. Michael’s Church regarding the above. The Church Council stated that the proposed grassed area in front of the Church would not be suitable for various named reasons but has suggested two other possible sites. Namely, either side of the main door of the Scout Hut in the High Street and the site immediately adjacent to the West wall of the Church tower beneath the main window. The second site would be in a recessed area between the buttresses that would not cause restricted use of the pathway but would still receive the attention of a substantial volume of pedestrian traffic en route to the library and supermarket. The vicar is to be thanked for his consideration and further investigations are to be carried out.

6. DUCK LANE CAR PARK

Consideration was given to improving the area of vegetation at the Scout Hut end of the car park by removing the upright wooden posts, reducing the height of the shrubs and clearing away any unnecessary undergrowth. The committee carried out a site inspection at the end of this meeting. The Council’s contractor is to be contacted to carry out the work along with a local volunteer resident.

7. PLAY AREA REPORTS

The May Play Area reports have been received from the contractor and all issues requiring attention were noted. It was decided to purchase a new litter bin in the St. Michael's play area to replace the one that had been previously burnt.

8. HIGHWAY REPORTS

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

9. HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME 2006/2007

The committee is to request the County Council Highways Department to partially overlay a small section of each approach road into the town with the red tarmac safety surfacing with a large 30 mph imprinted on it.

10. RESPONSE FROM CHIEF CONSTABLE

A reply has now been received from the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire in answer to the committee's concerns about the many incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.

It was felt that the reply did not answer those concerns and so Cllr. Coward is to respond on the committee's behalf.

11. UNITARY – COUNTY UNITARY OR CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

It is understood that all residents in the Mid Beds catchment area have received a special edition of Horizon which included a 'Make Your Choice' voting card. This committee decided that they would not vote as a Town Council but would vote as individuals. Some members registered concerns that the system was open to abuse and as such could be deemed as meaningless as anybody could pick up a card to vote with no formal registration or recognition of a bona fide resident.

12. FOOTPATH 4 and PATHWAY BETWEEN NORTH BRIDGE & SWING BRIDGE

The grass cutting contractor is to be requested to strim and clear the vegetation from the North Bridge river pathway (White Swan end) to the swing bridge.

As Footpath 4 has now been resurfaced and no longer needs cutting the contractor is to be requested to clear back and strim the encroaching vegetation.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An invitation to a meeting to talk about *Arts Aloud*, the new community touring scheme for Mid Beds on Tuesday 19th June at 6.30 pm. at Priory House, Chicksands. Cllr. King said she would be attending and would report back to the committee in due course.

The Mid Beds Empty Homes Officer is to be requested to update the committee as to the status of 136 Ampthill Road and 3 New Street.

1525 : 6/2007

Two residents have raised concerns about the dilapidated state of a rented house in Queen Elizabeth Drive. It is understood that the property has been let to students.

The clerk is to contact the agent to request that they tidy up the garden etc. as it is having an adverse impact on the area.

The contractor is to be requested to carry out a tidying up operation in the vicinity of the Campton underpass. Concerns were raised about a deep ditch that has now been covered by undergrowth.

It is understood that H2 Squared Electronics have leased two buildings until 2009 from Tesco Stores. It is further understood that this will not jeopardize the possibility of Tesco operating a retail store on the site.

The new Beds Police mobile office will be visiting Shefford on Saturday 16th June.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.
