

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2007**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick and Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point Mr. Wren welcomed Jill Cross, Area Steward (Amey's), Alan Trille, Engineer (Amey's) and Nick Kirby, Watchman in Chief who arrived to discuss the committee's concerns regarding the highway network in the town.

The meeting began with updating the committee on the various issues which had been raised as a result of walk round the town that Mrs. Harrison had previously carried out with Jill Cross.

A petition was also presented to the highway personnel regarding the lack of parking facilities in Gresham Way. To improve the parking situation, the residents in that area would like the grass verges converted to hard standing as has already been carried out in Lucas Way and Great Hill. Bearing in mind that the emergency vehicles also struggle to get their vehicles along Gresham way, the petition is to be forwarded to the Director of Environment at the County Council along with a report from both Beds police and the Fire Service.

Four further matters were reported – namely, completion of the unfinished drains in Amphill Road, the poor re-laying of the paving slabs outside the Scout Hut, highway patching work required in Bloomfield Drive and further subsidence in Ivel Road.

The representatives noted these matters and agreed to carry out a full investigation.

The committee is to request that their annual highway allowance is spent on providing a hard surface on the small pathway that leads from New Street to Mallard Close/Kingfisher Way including appropriate bollarding to prevent vehicular use.

Mr. Wren thanked them for attending after which they left. It was generally agreed that the meeting had been very useful.

3. PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The October play area reports have been received from the contractor and all issues requiring attention were noted. Most of the work required from the previous report has now been carried out but it was noted that the litter bin at the STMA needs to be replaced. The clerk is to investigate the cost of a replacement.

4. RISK ASSESSMENTS – TRAVELLER'S SITES

The District Council is to be contacted to seek further advice on carrying out risk assessments on potential traveller sites as they have had a lot of experience in such matters.

5. CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND

The committee has received guidance notes and suggestions from the County Council as to how Town and Parish Councils may like to utilize their annual allowance in regard to making communities feel safer. Examples as to how the allowance can be used are as follows : drug & alcohol awareness, litter/graffiti clean-up, part-funding a PCSO, CCTV, public space lighting, prevention of underage drinking/sales.

As the topics are so varied with different allocated costs, it was decided to distribute all the information to the committee members who will then study it. It will be collated on a majority heading basis prior to the completion of an application form. In order to receive the allowance the completed application form will have to be presented to the County Council by 31st January 2008.

6. COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT – BELLCOTE MEADOW GOAL COMBO

The Environmental Health Officer has followed up an earlier letter regarding a resident's complaint about noise caused by a ball hitting the backboard of the 'Goalforce' combo sited at the Bellcote Meadow.

The clerk had subsequently contacted the play area inspector to see what can be done to reduce the noise. The contractor has replied saying that he has contacted the manufacturer who informed him that providing all the panels have been tightly bolted to stop any vibration there is little that can be done. He further suggested that it might be possible to pack behind the fixing plates with rubber washers or gaskets but this could mean that the bolts may not then be able to be fully tightened and hence they could fall off and cause danger to the users.

This reply is to be forwarded to the Officer who is to be further informed that the goal combo and its siting had been agreed with the D C's own Play Officer.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A litter bin is required at the Southfields junction adjacent to the bench. Clerk to contact the District Council.

A request is to be made to the County Council to paint the bollards in the town centre the same colour as the rest of them.

Replacement litter bin required in Bloomfield Drive.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.