

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2008**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Coward and Leith. PC Busby, PCSO Keen, County Councillor Younger and District Councillor Brown.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs. Holmes. Messrs. Gray, Pollard, Dear, Steeples, Wren and District Councillor Birt.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

None.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

PC Busby reported on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**6. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor began by thanking the Councillors that had attended the Annual Town Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Overall he thought it was reasonably well attended although he would have liked residents to raise issues about nuisance youths and the proposed housing development plans.

Progress is still being made regarding the property designated for youth activities although a name for the project is still required.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Leaflet from Beds C C entitled Safeguarding Adults from Abuse.

7.2 Letter from the Charity of Robert Lucas For the Poor and Public Purposes enquiring if the Town Council would like Mrs. Harrison to continue as a Trustee.  
*It was agreed that Mrs Harrison should continue to serve on the Charity.*

7.3 Notice of Temporary Closure of Footpath 3 – Beds C C.

7.4 Letter from Mrs Nadine Dorries MP offering support for the proposed Tesco retail outlet in the High Street.

7.5 Notice of Temporary Road Closure for re-surfacing – Northbridge Street and South Bridge Street.

7.6 Various publications : Beds-Spread, Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter – April 2008, Wootton's What, Where and When of Waste – April 2008, Network – BRCC – April 2008, Local Council's Update – April 2008, Horizon – April 2008, Countryside Voice – CPRE, Bedfordshire, The Bedford Group of Drainage Boards – IDB Group – 2007 Review.

7.7 Mid Beds D C – Forward Plan – 1 May 2008 to 31 August 2008.

At this point the Mayor welcomed residents from Queen Elizabeth Close who came to register their concern about the possibility of adjacent land being put forward for development. The Mayor and District Councillor assured the residents that no decision had been made about any of the 13 areas put forward in the Shefford envelope but all sites were currently being perused by an independent consultant. The residents handed a petition registering their concerns to Cllr. Brown who promised to take it to the appropriate department at the District Council on Monday morning and similarly forward it on to the consultants. The residents were thanked for their attendance after which they left. It was reported that at Stage Two of the Preferred Options, Mid Beds D C will identify a number of preferred sites based on the outcomes of Stage One. May-October 2008 a statutory period of 6 weeks of public consultation will take place offering members of the public an opportunity to comment further on sites that have been selected as Preferred Options.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Services and Maintenance of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Finance and Policy of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

## **9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This was given by Cllr. Younger who informed those present that the Town Council should continue liaising with Mrs. Dorries regarding the proposed Tesco retail outlet in the town and pressure should also be put on Tesco's management in order that a store will come into the town.

Cllr. Younger explained the housing requirement for Bedfordshire and gave an outline as to what eco-towns are all about.

**1639 : 4/2008**

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Brown explained that the Mid Beds website, *TalktoMidbeds* had received some 3,900 'hits', 744 from Shefford residents but only 161 residents actually followed it

up. The maximum for Shefford was some 250 dwellings added to those that already have planning permission. It is anticipated that by 2026 that 4,500 dwellings and 4,500 jobs will be created.

The District Council had recently undergone an audit and as such had moved up from 2 stars to three of a four star rating system.

The recycling figures for the District Council were extremely good and the whole recycling system was performing well. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the food waste recycling programme will be available to all households in the Mid Beds area in due course.

Finally, Cllr. Brown said he would like to correct some mis-information which had appeared in the Biggleswade Chronicle whereby it implied that only Cllr. Chapman was the conduit for residents to pass on their concerns regarding the new Central Beds Unitary. In actual fact, residents can similarly contact both Cllrs. Brown and Birt in order to pass on any concerns they may have in respect of the unitary.

## **11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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