

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2008**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Holmes, Clark and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Coward, Wren and Steeples.  
District Councillors Brown and Birt, PCSO Richardson.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Messrs. Pollard, Leith and Dear. County Councillor Younger, District Councillor Chapman.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

None.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

This was given by PCSO Richardson who reported on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour that occurred in the town during August 2008.

**6. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor made a plea for more volunteers to assist with next year's Summer Gala.

More reports have been received regarding sewerage problems in Stanford Road. It is hoped that a representative from Anglia Water will attend the October Services and Maintenance meeting. The current problem has been reported to the Environmental Health Officer at the District Council.

The third Farmers Market is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>. Any help towards the setting up would be appreciated. A Market Management Group has had a meeting and is planning some additional events and themes to accompany the markets.

The plan to open up an industrial unit as a young people's centre seems doomed to fail. It would appear that the current owner requires a rent of £28k and that amount of money cannot be justified for such a project. It is hoped that with permission it is intended to fund outings and events for youngsters in this community i.e. Aerial Extreme at Willen Lake and visits to exhibitions and places of interest.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 From Beds C C - Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Lucas Way. Works are expected to take place for one day during the period from Monday 03/11 to Friday 31/12 between 0730hrs and 1800hrs (excluding Christmas and Bank Holidays).

7.2 From Beds C C – because of the Unitary situation, no guarantee can be given as to if or when the Town Council's request for an upgrade the Amphill Road crossing can be implemented.

7.3 Information on 'Smart Water'

7.4 Stakeholder UpDate Two – August 2008 – Creating Central Bedfordshire Council.

7.5 Partnership Bulletin-the newsletter of the Countrywide Partnership – July 2008.

7.6 Wootton's W at Where and When of Waste – July 2008

7.7 Drinking Water Quality Report – Anglian Water

7.8 Annual Report 2007/8 – Citizens Advice Bureau

7.9 Various publications : Beds Parent Partnership Service – Summer 2008, Network – BRCC, Local Councils Update, Beds-Spread, The Playing Field, We Love Bedfordshire, Horizon, Local Council Review, Fieldwork.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee meetings during August but all Planning Applications received during the month had been previously reviewed.

## **9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

This could not be given due to the absence of County Councillor Younger

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Shadow Executive of Central Beds will looking at the strategic plan for Mid Beds from 2009/11, looking both at Central Beds itself and the intentions and opportunities available for working with partners as partnership working will become even more crucial.

Two Directors for Central Beds have now been appointed, one for Sustainable Communities and the other for Business Transformation. Three Directorships are still outstanding but will be recruited from external sources.

Bedford Borough has decided to use a different back office computer system to Central Beds which will mean that lots of information from the County will need to be transferred from one system to another. It is generally agreed that although this is possible, it could be fraught with problems.

**1674 : 8/2008**

## **11. ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

## **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A resident enquired if this year's Christmas Lights would be affected bearing in mind that the committee's bottle collection money at the White Hart had been stolen. The resident was assured that the appropriate monies were already in place for this year.

Concerns were raised about the poor quality of the grass cutting and riverside pathways.

All Councillors are aware of this and numerous requests have been made to contractor to remedy this situation. Further attempts will be made and the whole situation discussed at the next meeting of the Services and Maintenance committee.

A contractor is to be requested to cut and remove the vegetation at the 30mph limit in Hitchin Road adjacent to Squires Close. It would appear that the speed limit sign has been removed further to the outskirts of the town and thus no longer becomes the responsibility of the County Council.

Beds Highways are to be contacted about a collapsed drain and subsequent poor road surface adjacent to J R Ford's Garage in Clifton Road.

So far this year's Summer Gala has made a £930 profit but several invoices remain outstanding for payment, therefore, the final figure cannot be calculated.

Beds Highways are to be contacted about the poor state of the roof planks at the underpass adjacent to Churchill Way.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.