

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH FEBRUARY 2008

PRESENT

Mrs. Harrison presided over Mesdames King, Clark and Reddick. Messrs. Steeples, Dear, Fisher, Coward and Wren. District Councillor Birt.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Mackin, Pollard and Gray. County Councillor Younger and District Councillor Brown, P C Busby.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 25th January 2008 were confirmed and signed subject to two amendments :

1603 : 1/2008 – Item 4 should read ‘the District Council took a long time to reply’ and not ‘had not replied’.

1613 : 2/2008 – Clarification that Mr. Coward was not present at the Finance & Policy committee meeting on 28th February.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given as PC Busby was unable to attend the meeting.

6. TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As Mr. Mackin was unable to attend the meeting, Mrs. Harrison informed those present that there will be an exhibition regarding the Local Development Framework – Issues & Options Consultation at the Community Hall on 13th March and recommended that as many people as possible should attend.

A reminder that there will be Campton & Shefford Joint Burial Committee meeting at the Council Chamber on Friday 14th March at 7.30 p.m.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 A memo from the Headteacher at Robert Bloomfield Middle School registering concern about ant-social behaviour.

1616 : 2/2008

7.2 An update from the Chief Executive of the District Council regarding the current status of their unitary bid.

7.3 Temporary Road Closure A507/A600 Shefford Bypass roundabout and Henlow Bypass (Airman) roundabout.

7.4 An e:mail from Cllr. Pollard inviting members to accompany him to a *Tastes of Bedfordshire* evening at Barnfield College on Tuesday 11th March.

7.5 Various publications : Partnership Bulletin – Issue 5 January 2008, Local Council review, Local Development Framework Newsletter January 2008, Mid Beds Local Strategic Partnership Newsletter – Winter 2008, Commen Tree – Issue 46, Horizon, Local Councils Update, Beds-Spread, Enjoy England.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 6th and 20th February 2008.

Services and Maintenance of 13th February 2008.

Finance and Policy of 20th February 2008.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The clerk read out an e:mail from Councillor Younger as he was unable to attend. Various organizations etc. have benefited from Cllr. Younger's County Councillor fund including the Community Hall, Families in Need at Christmas, Merry Go Round, and the Shefford Drama Group.

Cllr. Younger also visited the Amey's Road Show at Chicksands and reminded them about Ampthill Road, North and South Bridge Street and Ivel Road along with the poor state of the drainage and pavements in the town.

The County Council is carrying out a project on HGV signage in the town and a representative of that initiative is to be invited to a Services and Maintenance committee meeting.

The new County budget is 3.8% and the County has continued its strategy of lowering Council Tax increases. Cllr. Younger also pointed out that this is the third year in succession that Beds C C has had the lowest government grant increase given to County Councils, the majority of government money going to the north of the country.

Briefly the money has been spent as follows : £5.4m growth in Adult Social Care, allocation of £1.5m to schools to maximize government funding on Building Schools for the future (BSF) allows for inflation of the Government's 33% increase in landfill tax, an additional £0.4m to roads and pavements – bringing the total Highways maintenance budget across both capital and revenue to £20m in 08/09, £100k to fund 3 special constables to support Community Safety and provides for the Confident Communities fund of £1m to be spent over the remainder of 07/08 and through 08/09 etc.

The Police Authority has increased its Council Tax by 9.6% simply to safeguard front line police services including regular force and PCSO's.

1617 : 2/2008

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Cllr. Birt who informed those present that a lot of work had been carried out in respect of the District Council's unitary bid and it was hoped that a decision would be announced in the first or second week of March 2008.

Skateboarders were using the District Council's car park.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

An enquiry as to when the railings on the pathway adjacent to Cornish Close are likely to be removed. Mrs. Harrison said she would speak to a representative of the Highways Department.

A question was asked as to when or if the road markings would be re-instated in Clifton Road. It was thought that 'white-lining' work in the town was still being carried out.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.