

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2008

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Holmes, King and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Dear, Pollard, Steeples, Coward, Wren. County Councillor Younger, District Councillors Brown and Birt. PC Busby.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Leith, District Councillor Chapman, PCSO Keen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 30th May were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby reported on the 26 incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour that had occurred between the 1st and 27th June.

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported the Summer Gala had been a very successful event. Although the finances have not yet been finalized, it can be considered as a 'good value' event. There were no public order issues despite alcohol being available. Beds police estimated that between five to six thousand people had attended.

It was very obvious that the organising team was overwhelmed by the amount of work that needed to be done on the day and more help will be required next year.

The D C is launching a further consultation session on possible development sites. There is one additional site for Shefford and details have been requested but unfortunately the website failed to deliver the message. There will be a 'road show' event to allow public comment to be made. Unfortunately for Shefford residents, this will be held at the Memorial Hall in Stotfold on 10th July and run from 12.30pm to 7.30pm.

Mid Beds D C planners is still deliberating on the 'change of use' application regarding the youth facility building and Tesco as the landlord have been asked if they would reduce the high rental charge. The possibility of a smaller unit is also being considered.

Finally, the proposed Farmers Market will take place between 9am and 1pm on Saturday 12th July and every 2nd Saturday of the month from then on.

At this point Mr. Pollard gave a brief resumé on the proposed Farmers Market. It is anticipated that there will be between 8 and 12 stalls and 'flyers' are being distributed accordingly. Mr. Pollard informed those present that he has also travelled outside Shefford to such places as Ireland and Southill to inform them of this forthcoming event in the hope it will attract a greater number of visitors. It is possible that the banners promised by Tastes of Bedfordshire may not be available in time. Further work still needs to be done but so far everything looks very promising.

Mr. Wren then gave a brief outline of the Gala Day. Certainly the whole event was deemed to be a success and thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. As previously stated by the Mayor the final figures are not yet available but certainly there will be profit. Risk Assessments for the Gala have been requested by a D C Health and Safety Officer.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Anti-social Behaviour Incidents and Reported Crime to 31/05/2008 – Beds Police

7.2 Letter from Beds C C re proposed construction of a Toucan Crossing in Ampthill Road – A507.

7.3 An invitation from to the 'Chairman's Charity Golf Day on 11th September 2008 – MBDC

7.4 Various publications : Partnership Bulletin – Issue 7 – June 2008, Horizon, LDF Newsletter June 2008, Bedfordshire, Beds-Spread, Local Council Review, Local Councils Update, Fieldwork – CPRE.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 4th and 18th June 2008

Services and Maintenance of 11th June 2008

Finance and Policy of 18th June 2008

The Mayor reported that Mr. Fisher had objected to the fact that the election of the Vice Chair for the Planning and Environment committee had been carried out too quickly and as such there had not been a proper opportunity for any other candidates to register an interest. The Mayor responded that he did not recall that being the situation but the Vice Chair position is now filled and will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council next May.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Younger reported that he still had some £2,500 grant money that could be used for small projects to the order of £300 to £400 per project.

Both the Ampthill and Woburn Farmers Markets are doing very well.

Cllr. Younger informed those present that had attended an awards evening in London which had been hosted by the Municipal Journal. The County Council was nominated for 6 National Awards and had come 2nd in one 1st in another.

The Robert Bloomfield School was performing very well in the latest Ofsted report.

The proposed construction of a Toucan Crossing on the A507 was very welcome and as the possibility of an underpass had been ruled out many years ago then this was the only viable solution.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Brown reported that by 21st July all the roads in Shefford will be on the Food Waste Round. All residents that wish to participate in the scheme will be given a brown waste bin by that date.

In July the D C will launch the second part of the Talk to Mid Beds consultation on future development in the area. One additional site has been put forward for Shefford and information on this site can be viewed at Stotfold Memorial Hall on 10th July between 12.30 pm and 7.30pm.

Cllr. Brown confirmed that the D C will not be operating a 'spy in the bin' system as has been carried out in some areas of Norfolk.

It has been agreed by the Executive that there will be one less Director in the Unitary Council which will mean a saving in costs.

The pot holes in Iveldale Drive have now been filled in. It was hoped that a more substantial job would have been done but at least there is improvement.

The drain at the Ivel Road/Clifton Road junction will be 'flushed' and consideration will be given to raising the kerb. 'Keep Clear' signs will be painted on the road where the current dropped kerbs are located.

It was noted that there is a bus stop sign painted on one side of Clifton Road but not on the other. Beds Highways are to investigate the matter.

Cllr. Brown informed those present that not only had he had requested a full survey of the pavements as they are in an appalling state but also insisted that Beds Highways should put more emphasis on quality of work and not quantity.

Cllr. Birt reported that the D C is totally opposed to the proposed eco-town at Marston.

11. ACCOUNTS

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

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public said she was pleased that the Council was still searching for a suitable site to display items from the forge.

A further complaint was made about the state of the vegetation along the footpath which runs past the now defunct Shefford Business Park. This has been reported to the contractor many times and at the present time further payment to him has been suspended.

Concerns were raised about the state of some of the bollards in the High Street etc. A supplier of bollards has now been located and it is hoped that all damaged ones will be replaced in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.