

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 30TH MAY

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, King and Holmes. Messrs. Fisher, Coward, Pollard and Wren. County Councillor Younger, District Councillors Brown and Chapman, PC Busby and PCSO Keen.

1. TO ELECT A TOWN MAYOR

Proposed Mr. Fisher, seconded Mrs. Clark and agreed unanimously that Mr. P. Mackin be elected Town Mayor.

2. TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Proposed Mr. Fisher, seconded Mr. Pollard and agreed unanimously that Mrs. J. Harrison be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick. Messrs. Leith, Steeples, Dear and District Councillor Birt.

4. TO ELECT A FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Proposed Mr. Fisher, seconded Mrs. Harrison and agreed unanimously that Mr. C. Steeples be elected Finance and Policy committee chairman.

5. TO ELECT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES

For a full list of representatives see page 1649 : 5/2008. It should be noted that Mr. Gray has tendered his resignation and Mr. Smith has become ineligible to serve as he has not attended any meetings for 6 months. The other committee members remain unchanged.

6. TO CONFIRM STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were confirmed without amendment.

The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are ex-officio members of all committees.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

COMMITTEES (Current until end of May 2008 Committee Elections)

FINANCE & POLICY SERVICES & MAINTENANCE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Steeple (Chairman)
(Chairman)
Mackin
Harrison
Holmes
Wren
Coward
Clark

Wren (Chairman)

Coward (Vice Chair)
Mackin
Reddick
Dear
Harrison
King
Pollard

Holmes

Clark (Vice Chair)
Harrison
Mackin
Leith
Fisher
Steeple

OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES

STMA (1) Mrs. Harrison

Wanderbus (2) Mr. Steeple, Mrs. Reddick.

Crime Prevention Liason Officer (1) Mr. Coward

Town Band Trustees (2), Mr. Coward

Town Centre Partnership (2) Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Dear

Newsline (4) Mr. Mackin, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Steeple, Mrs. Holmes

Bloomfield Gales Association (2) Mr. Mackin, Mr. Leith

Shefford Sports Trust (1) Mrs Clark.

Joint Burial Committee – All Members of the Council

Appointed until date shown

Robert Lucas Trust (3) Mrs. Harrison (July '2011), Mrs. McGregor (July '09),
Mrs. Faircloth (July '10)

Governor of Shefford Lower School (1) Mr. Mackin (Feb 2011)

Shefford Community Hall Managing Trustee (1) Mr. Fisher

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County Councillor Younger, District Councillors Brown and Chapman, PC Busby and PCSO Keen.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick. Messrs. Leith, Steeples, Dear and District Councillor Birt.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2008 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby reported on the 23 incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour that occurred during May 2008.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mackin informed those present that the Property Agent is now in possession of the keys to the building which the Council would like to rent for youth provision. A 'change of use' form has been forwarded to the DC.

A complaint about unwelcome anti-social behaviour has been received from a resident on the Kingfisher Way development. It is understood that these incidents have been reported to Beds Police.

Several residents on the Kingfisher Way have complained that the grass on the play area there has not been cut for some considerable time. It is understood that the play area is still the responsibility of the developer. The clerk is to contact the developer to request that they cut the grass as soon as possible.

The Mayor thanked the members for their confidence in voting for him to as Mayor for a further year and promised to project the positive and independent image of the Council and ensure that the community benefits in every way possible. The 'Unitary Experience' will come into effect next April and that may mean more work for the Council. This will mean that the Council will have to examine any opportunity to take part in the re-organisation and ensure that the Council is compensated for any additional tasks.

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7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Anti-social Behaviour Incidents and Reported Crime to 30/04/08 – Beds Police.

7.2 Letter of resignation from Mr. Tony Gray.

7.3 Letter from MBDC re BT's Proposal to Re-align Payphone Provision.

7.4 Letter from Arlesey Town Council informing members of the names of their Mayor and Vice Chairman for 2009/9.

7.5 MBDC Forward Plan – 1st June 2008 to 30th September 2008.

7.6 Various publications : Commentree, Hurricane, Bedfordshire Matters – CPRE, The Playing Field Spring 2009, Local Councils Update May 2008, Clerks & Councils Direct May 2008, Local Council Review May 2008, The Bulletin – Standards Board for England Issue 38.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 7th and 21st May 2008

Services and Maintenance of 14th May 2008.

Finance and Policy of 21st May 2008.

Mr. Wren gave a progress report on the Summer Gala. To date there are 9 floats, 50 stalls, 40 classic cars, majorettes, marching bands, stilt walkers, food and an outside bar. The parade will start from Samuel Whitbread Middle School at 11.30 a.m. and reach the Robert Bloomfield Middle School at approximately 12 noon. Volunteers are required for various duties.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Younger agreed that there should be an agenda for information regarding the forthcoming 'unitary'.

There are to be portfolios for various services including children's services which will encompass fostering, adoption, education and social services for children. Obviously there is a tremendous amount of work ahead.

A 'pyramid system' for schools is to be developed with the best performing schools towards the top – Sharnbrook Upper School will head the pyramid for North Bedfordshire and they have already formed a Trust.

Cllr. Younger also reported that in Mid Beds, both the Shefford Lower and Upper schools are performing well.

It is hoped that Shefford Post Office will not be closed as it also doubles as a sorting office.

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10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Chapman reported that under the forthcoming 'unitary', the street signs will be replaced on a 'rolling' 10 year programme along with ad hoc replacements in the event of signs needing a repair. There is also a possibility that there will be a 'smarter' sign to denote a conservation area.

Advertising for senior roles in respect of the new unitary will take place in due course as certain of the responsibilities will be new to the current District Councils.

Cllr. Brown informed those present that when Southbridge Street is re-surfaced it will affect parts of both Iveldale Drive and Mayfields and residents of both roads have been informed.

The District Council initiative to offer funding for CCTV cameras is now operational.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.
