

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark and Holmes. Messrs. Steeples, Fisher, Pollard, Coward, Wilson and Wren.
District Councillors Brown, Birt and Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

Mesdames Reddick and King, Messrs. Leith and Dear. County Councillor Younger.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 31st October 2008 were confirmed and signed subject to the amendment that District Councillor Brown was present at that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The Mayor reported that the request for *Smartwater* kits initiative was going well and the order has already been placed. A DSS definition of 'vulnerable people' and 'people at risk' has been requested.

5. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of PC Busby.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor offered thanks to all those members that attended the Remembrance Parade and thus helped to make it one of the best for several years. Particular thanks are to be passed to the cadets.

The next full council meeting will be on Friday 19th December 2008.

The Mayor requested members to let him know of any households that they considered might be at risk from ill health or age as they will be given free *Smartwater* kits.

A decision has to be made as to whether or not to proceed with the Phase II Enhancement Plan. If it is decided that the Enhancement is to go ahead then there may be a need to update the original design particularly with regards to the access of the proposed Tesco site.

The Mayor informed those present that any help towards the Farmers Market on 13th December would be much appreciated.

Attendance at the recent Health Centre consultation was very poor and the Mayor urged people to attend the next meeting on 8th January 2009.

Information gained from the Town and Parish Councils Reception has indicated that P3 funding is to continue. Highway Maintenance will also continue as now and will be one of the operations that are run by both Unitary Councils. Most comments about highways were good.

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7. GALA REPORT

Mr. Wren reported that arrangements for next year's gala were progressing slowly. A Gala committee has already been formed although more volunteers are always needed. It is hoped that matters will progress more quickly after Christmas. The next committee meeting will take place on Monday 1st December 2008.

8. FARMERS MARKET REPORT

The next farmers Market will take place on Saturday 13th December 2008 and will be opened by the current Gala Queen at 10.30 a.m. The Shefford Majorettes will also be present. St. Michael's Church will also be holding their annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Shefford Fire Brigade will be carrying out a leaflet drop. Any volunteer help will be most welcome.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 From Beds Police – A report of incidents of Recorded Crime and Anti-social behaviour since April 2008.

9.2 Various publications : Stakeholder Update 6 'Creating Central Bedfordshire', Talk to Mid Beds November 2008 to January 2009, The Playing Field, Local Councils Update, Clerks & Councils Direct, Bedfordshire Matters – CPRE, Hurricane, Horizon, Countryside Voice, Bedford Hospital NHS Trust – The Next Five Years 2008/13 and Governor's Handbook. Feasibility Study – Biggleswade Sports, Leisure and Community Village.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 5th and 19th November 2008.

Services and maintenance of 12th November 2008.

Finance and Policy of 19th November 2008.

11. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Councillor Younger was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment but advised the Town Council that they should continue to press the County Council for funds particularly in respect of bus shelter funding.

12. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

At last Tuesday's meeting of the Executive it was agreed to establish a Children's Trust. Consideration was also given to the general principle of having more youth involvement in local government.

A discussion regarding concessionary bus passes and the financial implications thereof also took place.

It is proposed that next month's meeting will discuss the roles of Town and Parish Councils and how Central Beds plans to involve them.

It was reported that Covanta Energy plans to build an Energy from Waste power station in Bedfordshire to dispose of waste from both Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. It should be noted that the District Council is totally opposed to this plan. Furthermore, the County Council also proposes to build a waste disposal unit on another part of the same land but so far no decision has been made regarding either application.

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13. ACCOUNTS

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

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was suggested that an area of land adjacent to the Fire Station could accommodate a town notice board.

It was reported that more and more commercial vehicles carrying trailers and generators were parking in various residential areas in the town and that serious accidents will be inevitable.

Work being carried out on the now defunct Business Park in Southbridge Street is causing problems in Iveldale Drive. It was reported that part of the river path will be dug up in order to facilitate the moving of electricity cables.

It was further reported that the Shefford Green Infrastructure Workshop had gone well and was very interesting. However, it was hoped that more people will attend the next one on 27th January 2009 at the Community Hall.

An area of land adjacent to Midland Gardens has become an eyesore due to the volume of rubbish dumped there. The landowner is requested to remove it as soon as is practicable.

A question was asked as to why it was that the Lower School was placing recyclable waste such as paper towels and cardboard into green bins only to find it was all going to landfill. In short the District Council does not recycle waste but only collects it on behalf of the County Council to whom it is then delivered for appropriate disposal.

The Environment Agency is to be requested to remove a concrete bollard from the river.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.