

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, King, Holmes and Reddick. Messrs. Dear, Fisher, Pollard, Coward and Leith.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs. Clark, Mr. Wilson. PC Busby, PCSO Keen, County Councillor Younger and District Councillor Birt.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

None.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

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

**6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Mayor reminded those present that the Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November and those attending should assemble at 10.00 a.m.

The Farmers Market will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November and any offers of assistance will be welcome.

The final and full Council meeting for the calendar year end will be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

Re : *Smartwater* :the Mayor asked those present to let him know of any residents that they think might be at risk for reasons such as age or ill health. Free *Smartwater* kits will be issued to those households who are assessed as being at risk.

The Mayor gave a brief resumé of the meeting he attended in the Whipsnade Meeting Room hosted by both Mid and South Beds District Councils

**7. GALA REPORT**

This could not be given due to the absence of Mr. Wren.

**8. FARMERS MARKET REPORT**

This was given by Mr. Pollard who informed those present that the next Farmers Market would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November and will include a Royal British Legion stall. It is hoped that the December market (13/12) will include a barrel organ, roasted chestnuts and a Father Christmas. It is further hoped that the Gala Queen and Princess will open it and the Shefford Majorettes will also give a display. Flyers indicating the Farmers Market dates for the next six months are to be printed and distributed. The St. Michael's Church Christmas Tree Festival will be on the same day and as such will be a joint event.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1 Invitation from the BRCC to attend the Shefford Green Infrastructure Plan Stakeholder Workshop – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 from 7.30 pm to 9.30pm in the Community Hall.

9.2 From Beds Police – A report on incidents of Recorded Crime and Anti-social behaviour from April to October 2008.

9.3 A letter from Beds Police informing members that the new T/Chief Inspector Gavin Hughs-Rowlands is the new District Commander for Mid Bedfordshire.

9.4 Various publications : Partnership Bulletin – Beds Countywide Partnership, Local Council Review, Horizon, Local Councils Update, Beds-Spread, Town & Parish Standard, Connect, Creating central Bedfordshire – Stakeholder UpDate Nos. 4 & 5, A Consultation on the NHS Constitution, Consultation booklet on the making and enforcement of byelaws.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Services and Maintenance of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Finance and Policy of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

## **11. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Although Cllr. Younger was unable to attend the meeting, he did request through the Mayor that he would like the Town Council to support the new Health Centre in Hitchin Road. The overall Town Council view was that they would certainly support it but felt that if it was for the benefit of Shefford residents only then it was not ideally sited. However, bearing in mind the surrounding area then it is probably in the best place. It was felt that full consideration should be given to the current poor transport system.

**1694 : 10/2008**

## **12. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Brown reported on the Mid Beds Site Allocations consultation and informed those present that the latest information was on the D C's website.

The football pitch application for Hitchin Road is recommended for approval.

Funds are available for Phase II of the Town Enhancement Scheme. Cllr. Brown advised that a Business Plan would be required if the Council wished to proceed with it. This is to be discussed at a November Planning and Environment committee meeting.

Cllr. Brown requested that the Town Council passes on his thanks to the contractor regarding the excellent work that has been carried out so far on the riverside pathways.

It was reported that a resident had slipped on the steps of the swing bridge due to the constant dampness and consequent growth of moss of the woodwork. Mrs. Harrison said she would inform the appropriate group to seek remedial action.

A gas leak was reported in Southbridge Street adjacent to Kingsmede.

Cllr. Brown has been appointed as a Shadow Member of the Combined Fire Authority.

Information has been received that the Toucan Crossing in Old Bridge Way was constructed in the correct position and in accordance with Condition 9 of Planning Application No. 06/01178/RM – approved plan E.682/100/A.

A map showing the various wards in the new Central Beds Unitary Authority is now available.

### **13. ACCOUNTS**

The accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment

### **14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.