

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON
17TH DECEMBER 2008-12-18**

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison and Clark. Messrs. Coward and Wren.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point the committee welcomed Sue Birkett from the County Council who arrived to discuss the Council's application for funding for bus shelters and associated matters. Funding is now available from an S106 Agreement appertaining to the proposed Tesco retail site.

It is hoped that sufficient funding will be available for 4 shelters in Ampthill Road, a free illuminated shelter from Adspace adjacent to Ivel Road and a further shelter in Southfields to be funded by the Town Council.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that this plan should proceed as swiftly as possible.

3. DELIVERY OF SHEFFORD NEWSLINE MAGAZINE

It was agreed to give the Shefford scout Group one more chance to rectify their poor performance in delivering the Shefford Newsline magazine. The group is to be allowed 14 days between delivery to them and distribution to the residents.

If the Scouts feel they cannot meet this deadline they are to be requested to let the Council know. Any left over copies are to be delivered to the Council Chamber.

4. PRECEPT – 2009/10

The precept in respect of the Finance and Policy committee was established and as such is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council.

5. VACANCY – CO-OPTED MEMBER

The current vacancy for a co-opted member has now been filled. This means the Council now has its full quota of 15 members.

6. CONTRACT – FRIDAY MARKET

The contract and accompanying paperwork for the Town Council to run and maintain the Friday Market has now been received from the solicitors. The clerk is to sign said contract and return it accordingly.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

By virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 150, the use of a credit card for Town/Parish Councils is prohibited by law. The Clerk is to investigate alternative methods.

Chief Inspector Ivor Hall has now taken on the responsibility of Area Commander for Mid Beds. Inspector 1283 Rick Morris has responsibility for Ampthill and the surrounding area.

1713 : 12/2008

The committee has received information from the Consumer Protection Association regarding the possible use of a barn at the rear of 8 North Bridge Street as a museum. Overall it was felt that the terms of the lease that were likely to be imposed by CPA would not be financially viable.

It was agreed to invite Chief Inspector Ivor Hall to the January meeting of the Finance and Policy committee. The topics to be discussed will range from the level of police cover in the town to the potential vulnerability of the PCSO's on Friday and Saturday evenings bearing in mind that other police cover could be several miles away.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.