

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21ST MAY 2008.

PRESENT

Mr. Coward presided over Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Wren and Mr. Pollard for part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes. Messrs. Mackin, Steeples, Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Mr. Pollard updated the committee on further information he had gained regarding the proposed Farmers Market. Primarily he felt that the second Saturday in July would be a more preferable date as the second week in June was probably not achievable – this was agreed by the committee.

Mr. Pollard further explained that he had visited the High Street with two representatives that were already assisting with two Farmers Markets. The purpose of the visit was to view the possible siting of 8 to 12 stalls. Both representatives had also agreed to assist in any way they could and Mr. Pollard informed the members that he would continue to work with 'Tastes of Bedfordshire' and other advisory bodies in order to make the market a reality. He was thanked for his attendance and good work after which he left.

3. LEGAL NOTICE OF CHANGE OF PROCESS – MBDC

From 8th May 2008, the District Council's Standards Committee will initially assess allegations against elected or co-opted members for breach of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. Until that date, the Standards Board for England remains responsible for carrying out this function. Accordingly, if anyone wants to complain, after that date about the conduct of a District member or a Town/Parish Council member she/he must submit a complaint in writing to the Monitoring Officer at the District Council Offices at Chicksands.

4. INFORMATION FROM BEDS CC – CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND

Information as to how to claim the Town Council's allocation in respect of CCTV procurement under the Confident Communities Fund initiative has been received from the Community Safety Manager at the County Council

5. EXPENDITURE – S106 MONIES

Two S106 Agreements were due to be discussed but it was reported that one of the contractors named in an S106 Agreement has gone into administration – the District Council is to be informed accordingly.

Mrs. Harrison informed the committee that information was still being gathered regarding the second Agreement. As progress could not be made on either Agreement it was agreed that further discussion should take place at the September meeting of this committee.

6. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – 2007/8

A draft copy of the accounts for 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 was issued to the committee. It was noted that there was a typing error on page 4a and the total shown on page 4a under the heading 31.03.2008 did not agree with the actual bank reconciliation. The difference between these two figures was because of monies owed to the Council by way of VAT and an outstanding payment required on Shefford Newslime magazine. Subject to the typing error being amended and an explanation on the accounts documentation as to the balance differences, the accounts are **RECOMMENDED** to full Council.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concerns were raised about the quality of the grass-cutting in the town. The Clerk is to speak to the contractor.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.
