

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th SEPTEMBER 2008

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes and Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Steeples declared an interest item 12.

3. EVERSHEDES – RE POPLAR TREES AT WATERSIDE

It was agreed to pass all documentation appertaining to the above on to the Council's insurers for advice as the committee is not convinced that the Poplar trees are the cause of the subsidence to the house in Bedford road.

4. NEW MODEL – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

The committee has been advised that the new Model Publication Scheme must be adopted by all Town/Parish Councils on or before 31st December 2008. A briefing note has been received from NALC which is to be studied by the clerk. Further information will be forthcoming from the Information Commissioner at which time the committee will study all the documentation received prior to making the adoption.

5. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – VITALISE

An application for funding has been received from Vitalise. Regrettably the committee is not permitted to offer for funding under the S137 regulation as the organization is considerably outside the local area.

6. OVFFF CUP NOMINATIONS

The committee made their final decision as to the appropriate female and male recipient of the OVFFF Cup.

7. EXPENSES – FARMERS MARKET

It was agreed to award expenses to a non-Council member for the setting up of the monthly Farmers Market.

8. BUS SHELTERS - GRANTS REVIEW

The clerk reported that the funding application to the Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership would be discussed by their committee on 15th October. So far the clerk has been unable to obtain an application form from the County Council but anticipated it would arrive shortly. The response from the District Council indicated that they would consider funding but the amount offered would be dependent on what funds were received from the other funding sources. The Town Council will also contribute.

9. WEBSITE SPACE

It was reported that the remaining Shefford Town website space was becoming limited. The website manager is to be contacted to ascertain exactly what action is required. Appropriate costs will be met by the Town Council.

10. YOUTH DROP IN FACILITY

It was agreed in principle that the Town Meeting Room could be used free of charge as youth drop-in centre. Cllr. King, an official youth officer, would run the various projects and grant money previously received from the County Council is to be used for appropriate excursions, use of the Rave Bus etc.

11. DONATION TOWARDS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was agreed to contact the Christmas Lights committee with a view to offering £250 - £300 to purchase an item for this year's illuminations.

12. COUNCIL VACANCY

The committee has received an application in respect of the vacancy for a Town Councillor. Further discussion is to take place in camera after the full Council meeting on 26th September.

12. CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND

It was agreed that the monies remaining from the above fund should be used for the purchase of *Smart Water* kits. This would be in conjunction with Beds police and Homewatch and would be of particular value to the vulnerable people of the community.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.