

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2008**

PRESENT

Mr Wren presided over Mrs Harrison, Messrs. Mackin, Pollard and Dear.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick..

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point Mr. Wren welcomed Mrs Caron Kendall and her assistant who arrived to speak to members about the 'Tastes of Bedford' initiative. The committee would like to organize a monthly Farmers' Market in the town in order to promote local produce. Mrs. Kendall offered to fully support the initiative if it is given the go-ahead by the full Council at their meeting on 25th April. Investigations are to be made as to the insurance requirement, licence approval and any financial charges and it is hoped that further discussions will take place at the next Finance and Policy committee meeting.

3. HIGHWAYS REPORT

The March Highways Report for Shefford has been received from the County Council's Highways Department. All items on the report were noted and discussed accordingly.

4. PLAY AREA REPORT

The March Play Area Reports have been received from the contractor and all items requiring attention were noted.

5. BUS ROUTES – BEDS C C

Details of forthcoming service changes to bus routes have been received from the Public Transport Team Leader at the County Council. It is understood that Service Number 201 is to be withdrawn without replacement. This service runs from Mondays to Saturdays and serves the following parishes : Shillington, Gravenhurst, Meppershall, Stondon, Campton & Chicksands, Shefford and Haynes. The reason given was that the County Council can no longer offer financial support to services that fail to meet the needs of the communities they serve, as evidenced by the lack of passenger usage. The committee felt this was wholly unacceptable and a letter requesting the County Council to re-consider their decision is to be forwarded to them accordingly.

6. HIGHWAY PARISH LIAISON VISIT – BEDS C C

The committee has received the results of the recent Highway Parish Liaison visited as carried out by Mrs Harrison and Highways representatives. Various areas of footway that required attention were identified along with other areas of concern. It is understood that a member of the Highways team will 'cost up' some of the projects highlighted by Mrs. Harrison in order that the committee can make an informed choice as to how to get the best usage of the Town Council's Enhanced Parish Partnership Scheme for 2008/9.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The litter bin in Bloomfield Drive has again been vandalized. The Clerk is to request the District Council to carry out a repair.

It was reported that chairs have been thrown into the river at the weir in North Bridge Street. The clerk is to arrange for them to be removed.

The railing displaying the Kingsmede street sign has been removed from the site for safe keeping after it was recently vandalized. It was suggested that actual sign should be removed from the railing and replaced back at the site on support posts.

The car park area at the Millenium Green is in a dilapidated state with numerous potholes and a poor surface area. Contractors are to be sought with a view to applying a light surface covering possibly using road scrapings.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.