

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 12TH MARCH 2008**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Reddick and Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLAY AREA REPORTS

The February play area reports have been received from the contractor and all issues requiring attention were noted.

4. HIGHWAYS REPORT

The February Highways Report for Shefford has been received from the County Council's Highways Department. All items on the report were discussed at length and Mrs. Harrison said she would take the report home as she was due to have a 'walkabout' with a Highways Technician on Monday 17th March.

5. CCTV AGREEMENT

The final CCTV agreement has been received from the Community Services Manager at the District Council. It was agreed that the clerk should sign it and then return it to the District Council.

6. ENHANCED PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME 2008/9 – BEDS C C

Details as to how the above scheme will be operated has been received from the County Council's Watchman in Chief. The details included such information as ; the proposed timetable, the approximate costs for various types pf work and each Council's allocation for 2008/9. The deadline for informing the County Council as to whether or not they wish to participate in the scheme is 1st June 2008. The committee will compile their highway/pavement work requirement over the next two meetings.

7. SHEFFORD URBAN GRASS CUTTING AGREEMENT

The above agreement and annual allowance for 2008 has been received from the County Council. The clerk is to request a copy of the Town Council's grass cutting contractor's Public Liability Insurance Certificate which will be forwarded to the County Council along with the signed agreement.

8. PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Information regarding a temporary road closure has been received from Bedfordshire Highways. The closure is required for the re-surfacing of Riverside and Powells Road. The works will be carried out for 2 days during the period from Monday 14th April to Friday 16th May between the hours of 0800hrs and 1800hrs-specific dates will be advertised locally closer to time - access may be allowed from time to time according to local signing.

There is no alternative route available for this closure.

9. MARKET CHARTER

No response has been received from the Charter Market's Management Company regarding the Council's enquiry as to whether or not they would be prepared to sell the Charter to the Town Council.

However, the committee is considering starting a Farmer's Market and further information is to be sought from 'Tastes of Bedfordshire'. The District Council's Licensing Officer is also to be contacted to see if the market operator's have a current license and to further enquire if a license is required to run a Farmer's Market.

10. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

The clerk informed the committee that he would be having a meeting on 17th March with the District Council's Community Safety Officer with a view to finalizing the areas that the Council would like designated as Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ).

11. MUSEUM / FORGE

Mrs. Harrison informed the members that she was in receipt of information regarding the possible setting-up of a 'museum group'. The group would need to seek accreditation in order to be 'recognized' but it was thought that several residents would be prepared to join a committee.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The committee has received information from the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Manager regarding the current situation on Post Office Closures. Members and Officers of the D C are working with Postwatch and last November they met with their representative accordingly. The D C has stated that they were happy to receive any relevant information regarding the possible closures and any such information will be shared with Postwatch as part of the defence against the closure programme.

The committee has received an invitation to attend a *Mid Beds Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study – Stakeholder Workshop* on Wednesday 19th March 2008 at 19.00hrs. The venue is the Rufus Centre, Steppingly Road, Flitwick. Both Mr. Mackin and Mrs. Harrison said they would attend.

An attendee at Councillor Younger's surgery complained that she had concerns about a dog that was not adequately fenced in at a local residence. It is understood that Beds Police have been informed and the clerk is to report the resident's concerns to the D C's Dog Warden.

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A resident has registered concerns about the possibility of a bus shelter being erected outside his house which would not only impair the view from the house but may become a meeting place for youths. Although the committee noted the resident's concerns, there are plans to erect shelters at existing bus stops where

possible in order to protect bus travellers from the elements. However, the number of stops at which shelters can be erected would depend upon funding received.

The committee has received a press release in respect of the unitary solution as announced on 6th March 2008.

Confirmation that Shefford will be given a high priority in respect of the forthcoming Freight/HGV Survey has been received from a Senior Transport Planner at Bedfordshire Highways.

The Highways Department is to be requested to repair the Bloomfield Drive road sign.

It was reported that a telegraph pole situated outside The Wharf was ear-marked for removal in 2006. As it is still in situ, the clerk is to request the appropriate authority to remove it as soon as is practicable.

Mrs. Harrison informed the members that she had recently attended a Highways seminar/workshop which had been both useful and informative.

The Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.