

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2008**

PRESENT

Mr Coward presided over Mesdames Harrison and Reddick. Messrs. Mackin, Wilson, Dear, Pollard and Wren.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Mr Coward welcomed Mr Fred Wilson to his first committee meeting.

3. PLAY AREA REPORTS

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

4. HIGHWAY REPORTS

The September Highways Report has been received from Beds Highways. All items on the report were noted accordingly. Concerns were raised at the poor quality of the work and the fact that an area in Ivel Road is sinking again. Some months ago the main sewer collecting box/return valve at the Ivel Road/Oakwood Road junction was tarmaced over. It was noted that this has still not been remedied and a serious problem could arise. The clerk will again contact Beds Highways and report the committee's concerns.

5. TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

There will be a temporary road closure on the B658 and Old School Lane, Stanford. The closure is required for patching works and re-surfacing. It is expected that up to three road closures will take place during the period from Monday 3rd November 2008 to Friday 23rd October 2009 between the hours of 0900 and 1530 for the B658 and between 0730hrs and 1800 hrs for Old School Lane.

6. ANGLIAN WATER

Anglian Water had been previously invited to attend this committee meeting to explain what works they intended to carry out to address the sewerage problems that exist in town, particularly in Stanford Road. Regrettably they were unable to find anybody to attend but sent a letter of explanation. Although they agreed that the 'pipe capacity' was inadequate, something the committee had been aware for years, they simply stated that the solution had been reported in the Anglian Water Final Business Plan. The scheme to alleviate the flooding will be subject to prioritization against other planned work following Ofwat's review of the Final Plan submission. Further information is not expected for 18-24 months.

7. POPLAR TREES – WATERSIDE

The committee has received a letter from Eversheds regarding the above. The letter registered concern that the committee had not acted on the advice of their consultant thus meaning the tenant could not have his house repaired causing further delay. However, the committee felt that they would be remiss in their duty if they did not similarly involve the services of their own consultant and had previously informed Eversheds of this action.

8. GRASSCUTTING CONTRACT

The committee acknowledged that the quality of the Grasscutting this year had been of particularly poor quality with numerous complaints having been received. It was agreed to separate the river pathways from the grasscutting contract. The whole contract is now due for renewal and the clerk was tasked with finding out how other parishes and towns dealt with their contracts and tenders.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Martin, the Town Meeting Room Bookings Officer has informed the clerk that she will be resigning from her duties in the near future and enquired if her daughter could continue the duties in her place. This was agreed by the committee and Mrs Martin is to be informed accordingly.

It was agreed to refurbish some of the bollards round the town centre. The clerk is to investigate the costs in order that an amount can be allocated to the 2009/10 Precept.

The clerk is to report to Beds Highways that the amber traffic light outside the Black Swan P H/Southbridge Street is not working.

Information has been received from a resident in Hitchin Road regarding a dispute with a neighbour about a tree. The dispute culminated in an Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.