

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2009

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark and Reddick. Messrs. Fisher, Wilson, Coward, Steeples, Leith and Wren.
County Councillor Younger, District Councillors Birt and Brown., PC Busby, PCSO Keen.

1. APOLOGIES

Mesdames Bralant, Holmes and King. Messrs. Dear and Pollard.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the 30th January 2009 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

PC Busby reported on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town for the month of February.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Friday 17th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church Meeting Room.

The Mayor reported that the footpath between Shefford and Meppershall is on the Beds. Highways Five Year Plan and is currently at year three. Attempts will be made to bring this date forward.

The Somerfields store will close for a few weeks at the end of March. It is believed that the store will then re-open as a Morrison's supermarket and they are currently recruiting for staff. There will be open days on 1st and 2nd March at the Methodist Church. The Town Council will continue seek further information over the next few days.

7. GALA

More volunteers still required. At this time there are more stalls booked than this time last year and the same applies to arena events. Concerns were raised about policing the event. Constructive meeting with the D C's Health & Safety consultant.

8. FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market held on Valentines Day was very successful. Chocolates and champagne were donated by the Asda store at Kempston and schoolchildren made hearts to decorate the stalls. It is hoped to have a Mothers Day theme for the March market.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Temporary Road Closure A507 Ampthill Road, Clophill – 16th – 19th March.

9.2 Anti-social Incidents and Recorded Crime from 01/08/2008 to 31/01/2009.

9.3 Letter from 'Trust Chair' Bedford & Luton NHS stating that she will be 'standing down'.

9.4 Letter from Head of Library Services informing that Mobile Libraries and Library Link Services are being reorganized as closely as possible to the new boundaries.

9.5 Information that certain local schools plan to acquire trust status, supported by a charitable trust and company limited by guarantee on 1st April 2009. Further information can be obtained from the website - best@swcc.beds.sch.uk

9.6 Letter from Morrisons supermarkets stating that the Town Council's concerns about the forthcoming closure and associated matters will be taken into consideration.

9.10 Various publications : Hurricane, Beds-Spread, Playing Field, Horizon, Local Councils, Update, Town & Parish Standard.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 4th and 18th February 2009.

Services and Maintenance of 11th February 2009.

Finance and Policy of 18th February 2009.

11. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Residents urged to report potholes to Beds. Highways as funds have been allocated accordingly.

12. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Report of deep floodwater at the Campton/Shefford underpass. The Fire Brigade pumped the water out but it was found that the pump that had been installed to avert this problem wasn't working. It is thought that a local resident repaired it and it is now operating effectively. A request to carry out a regular underpass clearance has been made to Verdant along with metal 'plate' giving information as what action should be taken if anything untoward is found. It is hoped that this will happen in April.

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A Town/Parish Council conference is programmed to take place on 24th April at Chicksands.

It was reported that as New Street had a good safety record compared with other areas, it was unlikely that a one-way traffic system would be implemented. Beds Highways are to be requested to reconsider their decision.

A resident has contacted Cllr. Brown about the noise emanating from the Goalforce at the Bellcote Meadow. It is understood that some time ago the resident was asked to keep a diary of use and nuisance by the District Council. The Town Council is to request a copy of said diary but it should be noted that the equipment and its siting were the result of a consultation and advice from a District Council representative.

It was suggested that a skatepark could be sited on a triangle of land between the river and the football pitch.

13. ACCOUNTS

The Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident reported that the D C's website stated that the Site Allocations preferred sites would be announced at the end of February. Cllr. Brown replied that he thought the announcement was due in June but would clarify the issue as swiftly as possible.

Clerk to request the D C to replace the *Clifton Road* street sign.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.