

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 30th JANUARY 2009

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Bralant, King and Reddick. Messrs. Dear, Fisher, Wilson, Coward, Steeples, Wren and Leith. District Councillors Birt and Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Pollard, County Councillor Younger and District Councillor Brown.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 19th December 2008 were confirmed and signed subject to the following amendment :

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The now three planning permissions for football facilities (two on Hitchin Road and one on Stanford Road) are all open ended planning permissions and could be commenced at any time, subject to complying with conditions thereon.

In practice, it is not anticipated that any funds will be available for them unless it comes through the residential permission on Ivel Road. Any permission there will tie by 106 to the funding of an alternative football site.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

This could not be given due to the absence of PC Busby.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed those present that the precept set for 2009/10 was the same as that for 2008/9.

The *Smartwater* kits will be distributed at the Friday Market on 14th February. Neighbourhood Watch, the Town Council and the Safe Neighbourhoods Team will also be involved and the Mobile Police Station will be present.

The NHS Bedfordshire Board meeting to hopefully 'rubber stamp' the project will be held on 18th March. It is hoped that the Practice Manager at the current Health Centre will give a presentation to the full Council. Any questions can be forwarded to the Mayor who will in turn pass them on to the Practice Manager in order that she can provide a full answer at the meeting.

7. GALA REPORT

The Gala is progressing well and booking forms have already been received. The next meeting of the Gala committee will take place on Monday 2nd February at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

8. FARMERS MARKET

This could not be given due to the absence of Cllr. Pollard.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Anti-social Incidents and Recorded Crime from 01/06/2008 to 31.12.2008 – Beds Police.

9.2 Creating Central Bedfordshire Stakeholder Update 7.

9.4 Various publications : Commentree, Network, Clerk & Councils Direct, Partnership Bulletin, Beds. Domestic Violence Partnership Newsletter, Stakeholder Update 9, Wootton's What Where of Waste, Recycle me now-Beds C C., Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 7th and 21st January 2009.

Services and Maintenance of 14th January 2009.

Finance and Policy of 21st January 2009.

11. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

As Cllr. Younger was unable to attend the meeting he sent the following e:mail:
Good wishes to the incoming unitaries. Education, Social Services, Children's and Youth Services and Waste Policy are all in a first class state. At this time we are all waiting to hear what the Council Tax rate is going to be – remember both incoming unitaries did make a big play on the fact they will be making millions of pounds in savings.

Some debt will be passed over, primarily from Prudential Borrowing which upper tier authorities had access to from Government. District and Borough authorities did not access this borrowing facility so this is unknown territory to them.

This fund is used when upper tier authorities had large capital outlays e.g. schools and the Ridgemont bypass.

12. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Concerns over the poor state of pavements in Southfields-an urgent repair is required as there are a lot of elderly residents in the area.

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There will be a reduction of personnel at the District Council and the budgets should be available next month.

Staff will be informed as to where they will be working in due course but at present they are likely to stay where they are.

The computer systems of both the Borough and the District Council are to be looked at.
Engagement with Town and Parish Councils has been delayed until the Summer.

13. ACCOUNTS

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

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr. Chapman will serve on the District Council until June this year after which he will be moving to the London Borough of Guildford.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.