

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

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Holmes, King, Reddick and Bralant. Messrs. Dear, Pollard, Steeples, Fisher, Leith and Coward.
District Councillor Brown and PC Busby.

1. APOLOGIES

Messrs. Wren and Wilson. County Councillor Younger.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 27TH February 2009 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

Ref ; 1736:02/2009 – Council meeting 27th February 2009 – Item 14 - Councillor Brown confirmed that the announcement regarding *site allocations* will be made in June.

5. POLICE REPORT

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

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Friday 17th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Shefford Methodist Church.

At the present time Morrison's are proving to be very 'user friendly' and are communicating well with the Town Council.

Planning for the Gala is going well but more volunteers are desperately needed both on the lead up and on the day.

Monies received from both the Friday Market and the Farmers Market will be held in the Town Council's accounts and identified as such in order that it can be used to advertise them both.

The Mayor informed those present that both he and the clerk had attended a LCSA/SLCC event for local Councils. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the two new unitary authorities working with Town and Parish Councils. The general feeling was that a close working relationship was required if the two new authorities were to succeed and thought there was some way to go before a useful and workable solution could be presented. Some attendees felt that Bedfordshire had not spent long enough in planning the transition, some thought too much time and that money had been spent fighting a losing battle. Regrettably neither the Leaders of Central Beds or Beds Borough attended.

7. GALA REPORT

This could not be given as Mr. Wren was unable to attend the meeting.

8. FARMERS MARKET

Flowers were distributed by both the Gala Queen and Princess at the 14th March market in anticipation of the forthcoming Mothering Sunday. The market is proving to be very popular and it is anticipated that at the next market there will be an Easter Bonnet parade for the children and hopefully an Easter Bunny will be visiting. Both markets are to be advertised with particular regard to the wares that are available and to further invite people, especially visitors, to have a good look round the town in general. A list of events running up to Christmas is already in the pipeline

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Press announcement from Morrison's Supermarkets.

9.2 Anti-social Incidents and recorded Crime from 01/09/2008 to 28/02/2009.

9.3 Letter from Central Beds stating that Mrs. B. Morris will be in the role of Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic and the Council's Monitoring Officer.

9.4 Information from Peninsula Business Services informing members that they can advise on Health & Safety matters, Risk Assessments and the Working Environment.

9.5 Various publications : Bulletin 42 – Standards Board for England, Wootton's What, Where and When of Waste – Final Edition March 2009, Beds-Spread, Countryside Voice, Bedfordshire, Beds NHS Parent Partnership Service, Local Councils Update, Clerk & Councils Direct, Local Council Review, Fieldwork – CPRE.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

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

Services and Maintenance of 11th March 2009.

Finance and Policy of 18th March 2009.

11. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This could not be given as Cllr. Younger was unable to attend the meeting but sent a message thanking the members for their support and had thoroughly enjoyed his 12 years association with the town.

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12. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

The District Council's Local Plan has gone out but it should be noted that the two new unitaries are at different stages.

Local towns/villages will be notified as to when the Inspector will be visiting the proposed sites which will be carried out over a three week period and it will be know when visits to Shefford are to take place.

Amey's will be controlled by Central Beds as will Energy from Waste.

During January to February 2009 waste recycling went up and is now at 48%. Furthermore when the *green waste* figures are added it will be over 50%.

On Friday 27th March 2009 a commemorative Oak tree was planted at the Mid Beds site.

13. ACCOUNTS

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

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.