

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29th
MAY 2009**

PRESENT

1. TO ELECT A TOWN MAYOR

Proposed Mr. Fisher, seconded Mr. Dear and agreed unanimously that Mr. Paul Mackin be elected Town Mayor.

2. TO ELECT A DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Proposed Mr. Fisher, seconded Mrs. Clark and agreed unanimously that Mrs. Jennifer Harrison be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Mrs. Bralant. Messrs. Leith and Wren.

4. TO ELECT A FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Proposed Mr. Fisher, seconded Mrs. Harrison and agreed unanimously that Mr. C. Steeples be elected Finance and Policy Committee Chairman.

5. TO ELECT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES

For a full list of representatives see page 1765 : 05/2009

It should be noted that no members wished to change their current committee placement but Mr. Wilson said he would like to attend ad hoc Planning and Environment committee meetings. The Mayor said he did not have any objection to this but said Mr. Wilson would need to seek permission from the Chair of said committee when appointed.

The status of the Outside Representatives remains unchanged with the exception below.

The Council had been previously informed that Mrs. McGregor would be prepared to stand as a Robert Lucas Trust for a further period of four years and as such was duly elected.

6. TO CONFIRM STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were confirmed without amendment.

The Town Mayor and deputy Town Mayor are ex-officio members of all committees.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

1765 : 05/2009

COMMITTEES (Current until end of May 2009 Committee Elections)

FINANCE & POLICY SERVICES & MAINTENANCE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Steeple (Chairman) (Chairman)	Wren (Chairman)	Holmes
Mackin	Coward (Vice Chair)	Clark (Vice Chair)
Harrison	Mackin	Harrison
Holmes	Reddick	Mackin
Wren	Dear	Leith
Coward	Harrison	Fisher
Clark	King	Steeple
	Pollard	
	Wilson	
	Bralant	

OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES

STMA (1) Mrs. Harrison

Wanderbus (2) Mr. Steeple, Mrs. Reddick

Crime Prevention Liaison Officer (1) Mr. Coward

Town Band Trustees (2), Mr. Coward, Mr. Wren

Town Centre Partnership (2) Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Dear

Newsline (4) Mr. Mackin, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Steeple, Mrs. Holmes

Bloomfield Games Association (2) Mr. Mackin, Mr. Leith

Shefford Sports Trust (1) Mrs Clark.

Joint Burial Committee – All Members of the Council

Appointed until date shown

Robert Lucas Trust (3) Mrs. Harrison (July '2011), Mrs. McGregor (July 2013),
Mrs. Faircloth (July 2010)

Governor of Shefford Lower School (1) Mr. Mackin (Feb 2011)

1766 : 06/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH MAY 2009

PRESENT

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, King, Clark, Holmes and Reddick. Messrs. Dear, Steeples, Fisher, Pollard, Coward and Wilson.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Bralant. Messrs. Wren and Leith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 24th April 2009 were confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

None.

5. POLICE REPORT

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

6. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed those present that any volunteer help towards the Gala on 7th June would be both welcome and appreciated.

The Mayor registered his concerns about the fact that the police would not be on duty for the Annual Charter Fair. This situation is to be further discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and Policy committee.

7. GALA REPORT

A full report could not be given due to the absence of Mr. Wren. However, Mr. Mackin informed that those present that the Cadets had withdrawn from attending all public events for the time being as it was believed that one cadet had been injured during a display.

8. FARMERS MARKET

Mr. Pollard reported that attendance at the market had dropped possibly because of the closure of Somerfields. Overall, experience has shown that when a supermarket is in the town the footfall tends to improve.

It is felt that it was now time to start charging stallholders at both the Friday and Farmers markets. So far all the reports from both stallholders and the public have been very positive.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Anti-social Incidents and recorded Crime from 01/11/08 to 30/04/2009.

1767 : 06/2009

9.2 E:mail from Central Beds Highways – Portable Traffic Signals – Clifton Rd/Bury Rd – 1st June 2009.

9.3 Letter from Arlesey Town Council informing that Cllr. Hugh Harper has been elected Mayor and Cllr. Ian Dalgarno has been elected Vice Chairman.

9.4 Various publications : CommenTree, Beds-Spread, Local Councils Update, Clerks & Councils Direct, News Central, The Bulletin-Standards Board for England.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 6th and 20th May 2009.

Services and Maintenance of 13th May 2009.

Finance and Policy of 20th May 2009.

11. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPORT

Preparations are ongoing for the 4th June elections.

There will be a new Chief Executive for Central Bedfordshire Council.

Cllr. Brown attended a meeting of the Beds. & Luton Fire & Rescue Service and reported that they had been praised by Government Officers and are leading the way in many of the new initiatives.

12. ACCOUNTS

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

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public enquired if the Town Council would be attending the LDF meeting particularly with regard to Shefford. The Mayor replied that the Council would be represented. Cllr. Brown stated that he would also attend the meeting either as a Central Beds Councillor or a private individual.

It is thought that Morrison's supermarket will open on 22nd June.

A resident reported that he was still unhappy about the bus shelter that has been recently erected outside his house in Ampthill Road. The Central Beds. Officer that deals with bus shelters is to be informed accordingly.

There will not be a balloon race at this year's Gala but a Treasure Hunt instead. Tickets can be brought for £1.

Hopefully work on the new Health Centre in Hitchin Road will take place soon but it is believed that not all the funding is fully in place.

A question was asked about an historic footpath that linked the Fire Station to the back of the Somerfield/Morrison's supermarket. It was thought that this had not been a public right of way but was by courtesy of the landowner.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm