

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2009**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLAY AREA REPORTS

The January play area reports have been received from the contractor and all items requiring attention were noted.

4. HIGHWAYS REPORTS

The January Highways Report has been received from Beds. Highways. All items on the report were noted accordingly.

5. GRITTING

It was reported that the current snow and ice had caused major problems on the town centre footpaths. A formal statement has been received from Beds. Highways but there was no mention of pavement gritting. It was suggested that the Council's contractor could be supplied with a barrow, some salt/grit and appropriate tools with a view to clearing predominantly the High Street, North Bridge Street and Southbridge Street. The legal implications of this suggestion will have to be discussed with the Council's insurers.

6. HENLOW COMMON – SURVEY

The County Council has contracted a company to carry out a number of surveys on current facilities. The committee has been requested to complete a survey on Henlow Common and Langford Meadows. The clerk is to respond that the committee has little or no knowledge of either site.

7. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The committee has received a short film from the Environment Agency entitled *Emergency Responses to Flooding*. Mrs. Reddick said she would take the film home and view it to ascertain the salient points.

8. CHARTER MARKET

It was agreed to formalise the Charter Market and see if there was a need for stallholder agreements.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An response has been received from Somerfield's in answer to the committee's question as to whether or not they will be supplying essential items like bread and milk during the forthcoming store closure. In short, they have indicated that once the store ceases to trade it will be incumbent on the new owners to provide such a service.

A new litter bin is to be placed in Ampthill Road adjacent to Ford's garage.

The litter bin on the corner of Ivel Road and Clifton Road will be replaced as soon as possible.

The litter bin at Riverside is to be labelled as a dog litter bin as well.

It was reported that currently there is not a budget to construct a footpath between Shefford and Meppershall. It is hoped that more information will be available in due course.

Newsline magazine should be delivered very shortly. A minor delay did occur due to the weather conditions.

The contractor is to be requested to clear the brambles and vegetation on the car park side of the railings. He is also to be thanked for the excellent work he has carried out particularly in the Churchill Way area.

Minor amendments were made to the grass cutting contract prior to distribution next week to those contractors that had expressed an interest.

The Aragon Housing Association is to be asked if they would like the Council to cut the various areas of grass around the town for which they are responsible. If they are in agreement then financial terms will be discussed.

It was reported that waste collection had been delayed more than was deemed necessary. However, the committee felt that bearing in mind the hazardous weather conditions and the health and safety implications then the D C had done an excellent job.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.