

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Bralant.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point a representative from the County Council arrived to further discuss the purchasing and construction of five bus shelters in the town. It is hoped that the County Council's S106 monies could be used to fund all five shelters – three new shelters in Ampthill Road, a replacement shelter at Southfields and a further replacement shelter adjacent to the Fire Station. The County Council is to arrange finance and oversee the whole project.

3. PLAY AREA REPORTS

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

4. HIGHWAYS REPORTS

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

5. CHANGING ROOMS – BELLCOTE MEADOW

After studying the Licence under which the Shefford Saints (Juniors) Football Team use the Bellcote Meadow changing rooms, the committee felt that the repair of the damage caused by the water leak was the responsibility of the Saints. The clerk was instructed to forward a copy of the licence to the solicitor in order to obtain an accurate determination.

6. NOTICE BOARD

The committee felt that a suitable place for a town noticeboard would be against the railings at the entrance to Richard Daniels House. The clerk is to contact Beds. Highways as well both the Conservation and Planning Departments of the District Council to ascertain if permission would be granted.

7. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

The clerk reported that several contractors had responded to the invitation to tender for the grass cutting contract. The Mayor said he had amended the old contract as used for the 2005/8 period and a new contract is almost ready for issue. Mr. Wilson volunteered to carry out a survey of all the roads in the town with appropriate notes on the grassed areas to be cut.

8. CENTRAL BEDS PRIORITISED WORKS PROGRAMME

The committee has received a list of potential highway improvement schemes from Watchman-in-Chief at Bedfordshire Highways. In general the committee agreed with the capital schemes as listed with one or two amendments. These are to be notified to Beds Highways accordingly.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that several street lights in the town are not operating correctly. The Clerk reported that he had already notified the Highways Area Steward of this problem and had been told that a full survey of said lights would be carried out by the 'Lighting Maintenance Team'.

Mr. Pollard reported that two of the Farmers Market banners had been removed possibly by Beds Highways. Enquiries are to be made as to whether this information is correct.

The Aragon Housing Association is to be requested to remove apples and other debris which has been dumped in the Ivel Road spinney.

The February Farmers Market will take place on Valentines Day. The committee was requested to give thought as to what could be done to mark the occasion. It is further hoped to hold a craft market in the middle of the year. There was a suggestion of having the Farmers Market on Gala Day.

Concerns were raised that the grassed area at the Lucas Way/Stanford Road junction was encroaching on to the pavement. Beds. Highways is to be contacted accordingly.

The D C is to be requested to place a litter bin at the end of the alleyway adjacent to Ford's Garage and Amphill Road.

The clerk is to contact the D C to enquire if a second dog bin can be placed back to back with the existing one at Waterside.

A member suggested that a mini roundabout could be implemented in Hitchin Road in order to control traffic flow pending the construction of the proposed new Health Centre there. It was felt that any potential traffic problems should be addressed by other consultative bodies. The committee is to monitor the situation.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.