

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2009

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

It was agreed to Minute a vote of thanks for all the hard work that the volunteers had put into the gala which regrettably had to be aborted because of the weather. The committee was unanimous in their appreciation.

3. SPEED & VOLUME TRAFFIC SURVEY

The results of the above survey have been received from Bedfordshire Police. The survey was carried out between the 1st and 7th of June and the radar recorder was positioned at the street light opposite number 65 Hitchin Road. The report highlighted the percentage number of vehicles that were not compliant with the 30mph speed limit as well as other traffic movements.

4. HIGHWAY REPORT

The May Highways Report has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council and all items requiring attention were noted.

5. PLAY AREA REPORT

The May play area report has been received from the contractor and all items requiring attention were noted.

6. REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDS RE POPLAR TREES – WATERSIDE

The Arboricultural Office at Central Beds reported that the Poplar trees at Waterside should be reduced in height by between 25 – 30% with a shortening back of the ascending limbs to retain the present shape and hence ensure a uniform reduction of the canopy. Furthermore, any dead wood should also be removed.

It was also noted that the Officer agreed with an earlier report that the Poplar trees were not the cause of the subsidence to No. 1 Bedford road.

It was agreed to seek quotations for the requisite work and add to the next precept.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Daytime temporary traffic lights will be in operation between the 8th and 26th June in Ampthill Road for footway resurfacing.

The clerk reported that the Chief Planning Officer at Central Beds had indicated that planning permission would not be required for the proposed installation of the free

play equipment at Waterside providing none of the items exceeded three metres in height.

The clerk is to arrange a meeting with a representative of the Environment Authority in order to seek their permission.

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The clerk confirmed that he had ordered the Town notice board and showed members a drawing of how it would look.

The clerk reported that the grasscutter had signed and returned the Service Agreement without amendment. It was agreed to review the contract at the end of the Grasscutting season.

The committee agreed to spend their Highway Fund money on replacing/renewing the rumble strips on the entrance roads to the town.

The clerk is to contact local landowners to ascertain if they have any land suitable for allotments. It was suggested that perhaps the area of land adjacent to the chapel that was designated as future burial ground could be brought/leased with a view to have an allotment site there if only on a temporary basis.

The committee decided to tidy up the Council Chamber yard with a view to purchasing a larger wooden shed to hold all the land maintenance equipment.

The clerk is to enquire from Central Beds as to whether or not a 'planting licence' is required to site the old horse trough adjacent to the replica pump in North Bridge Street.

The committee received a report that 'puddling' was occurring in the Brewers Yard/Ivel Road area. Clerk to report to Central Beds Highways.

Central Beds is to be requested to clean and rectify the Keep Left signs in Ampthill Road.

Mrs. Harrison reported that 'Miss Bedfordshire' had contacted her to say she was available to open any community events in the town.

Mr. Wilson showed the committee two journals – one giving information on climbing and archery at the Grafham Water Centre, the other on skatepark manufacturers.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.