

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11th MARCH 2009

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Wren.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. HIGHWAY REPORTS

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

4. PLAY AREA REPORTS

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

5. ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES

A copy of the street names and a map of the areas designated as the Alcohol Free Zone have been received from the District Council's solicitor. It was agreed that the areas shown are correct.

6. REQUEST FOR ONE WAY SYSTEM IN NEW STREET

Information received from the Transportation Manager at Beds. Highways has indicated that there is no intention to make New Street a one-way traffic system in the foreseeable future. The committee is to point out to him that consideration should also be given to Bloomfield Drive and George Street. The Transportation Manager is to be requested to attend a site visit to coincide with school opening or closing times. Representatives of the Town Council will attend and hopefully a representative from the District Council.

7. AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

The Operations Manager of the Howard Cottage Housing Association has written to the committee informing them that his Association offers affordable housing schemes and information to small towns and villages.

8. SUPPORT FOR ADULT SATURDAY FOOTBALL

A resident has enquired if there are any adult football teams in the town. The committee is to direct him to Mr. Birt as Chairman of the Shefford Sports Trust.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that hi-viz summer polo shirts could be brought for the Council's maintenance contractor ideally sporting the town logo. Quotes are to be sought.

It was reported that the Meppershall footpath has been designated for year three of the Beds. Highways Five Year Plan. It was thought that this could be brought forward if the Middle School Travel Plan was in place.

N.B. subsequent to the meeting the following has been received from Beds. Highways:

Robert Bloomfield has submitted a travel plan for approval this year. County are in the process of reviewing the plan and will sign it off providing it meets all requirements. The plan will then be sent to central government for approval. The TP should be back with us in the summer and will then be eligible to bid for funds for a SRtS Scheme in 2010/11 onwards.

It was reported that rubbish was building up in The Meads. The Clerk will investigate.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that charges to stallholders for the Farmers Market should be £5 per pitch to be implemented as soon as possible.

It is **RECOMMENDED** to full Council that charges to stallholders for the Friday Market should be set at £7 to £8 per pitch to be implemented in the near future.

The meeting in respect of the new Health Centre is due to take place on 18th March 2009.

The BRCC website (Greensands Ridge) shows that funding is available for suitable projects. The clerk is to investigate any possibilities.

It was reported that a lump of concrete adjacent to 19 Ampthill Road could be hazardous. Clerk to investigate.

An item in the latest Flood News magazine indicates that funding for appropriate projects could be available. Clerk to investigate.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.