

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the Village Hall

**PRESENT:**

Mrs. Walker (Chairman), Mrs. S Fardon, Mrs. P Olney, R Baily, D Jones, G Sansom, R Saunders, M. Taylor, P White the Clerk and Mr. Pettifer (Bedford BC) and Mr. Norwell (Stagecoach) for item 10.

**1. Public Open Session**

Council held a minute's silence in memory of former councillor Ron Harris who had recently passed away.

Chairman recorded Council's thanks to the Carnival Committee for an excellent event. Clerk to thank the Chairman of Committee.

**2. Apologies: P Phillips, (personal) J Saunders, (personal)****3. Declarations of Interest:**

Chairman for items 11 and 12 as a relative of one of the applicants.

**4. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

**Resolved:** to adopt the minutes.

**5. Clerk's Report:**

Housing Needs Survey - delivered with Newsletter. New Rural Housing Enabler to be appointed by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity to deal.

Allotment land lease – Bedford BC had forwarded revised draft. Cllrs. Olney & Baily and the Clerk to meet and consider for discussion at September meeting.

Allotment hard standing – work to begin this week. Clerk had advised Allotment Committee that side gate would be padlocked when work completed.

Highways – Clerk had reminded Bedford BC about the bollard at the end of Burleigh Place.

Cycle Paths – Clerk had written to Bedford BC requesting funding for Lovell Road cycle path and to Lincroft requesting additional cycle racks. No response yet.

Speeding - Clerk had requested mobile camera be deployed in the High Street early in the mornings and in the evenings. Police had advised that details of those caught speeding are not published unless the case goes to court. Other councils do not publish names of residents. Three tickets had been issued in Lovell Road since April 2011, the last one on 25.05.11, who was not a local resident.

External Audit – submitted

Bottle Bank – new bank delivered which has notices on asking residents not to litter the site

**6. Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – none**

Action

**7. Police Report:**

Action

**a) Police Report**

PC Tott and PCSO Underwood had been unable to attend. There were 4 reported crimes between 03.06.11. and 30.06.11. of which 1 was a burglary and 3 were thefts of bicycles.

There were 3 reports of anti-social behaviour, 2 of which were nuisance motorcycles.

**b) Meeting 17.06.11. with Police & Mr. Burt MP**

Chairman reported that the police structure would be changing in October 2011. Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be replaced by urban and rural teams, both based at Kempston and/or Bedford, so there would no longer be an officer allocated to a group of villages. The number of front line officers and PCSOs would remain the same and Asst. Ch. Constable Fletcher had agreed to investigate local funding of PCSOs. Riseley might be closed. Cllr. Olney noted that the Liaison Group would be writing to the Chief Constable stressing the importance of retaining PCSOs with local knowledge and suggested Council write too.

**Resolved** Clerk to write.

Clerk

**8. Provision of Christmas Lights:**

Action

Cllr. Baily had received a revised quotation of £722.52 + VAT for tree, white lights, power pack & cabling plus £249.15 + VAT for fencing. Clerk had ordered as agreed at June meeting.

Tree to be placed on grass at entrance to church and Cllr. White to order batteries nearer the time.

Cllr. Baily volunteered to erect the tree but would need assistance. There was insufficient money in the budget for lights in tree at High Street/Pavenham Road too.

PW

RB

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| <p>9. <b><u>Youth Club Co-ordinator:</u></b><br/>None of the current volunteers nor any of the former Bedford BC Youth Service workers were interested in taking over the position of Co-ordinator. Chairman had made enquiries at the University of Bedfordshire and the post would be advertised on notice boards.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><u>Action</u></p>                   |
| <p>10. <b><u>Bus Services in Oakley and Wider Rural Area:-</u></b><br/>Mr. Pettifer (Bedford BC) and Mr. Norwell (Commercial Director, Stagecoach) attended for this item.<br/><u>Bus Station</u><br/>Council expressed concern at the appearance of the bus station, litter in the cycle parking area and lack of cigarette bins for employees. Mr. Norwell advised that Bedford was one of the few bus stations owned by Stagecoach. £57,000 had been invested recently, most from Stagecoach, on security, lighting etc. but the site remained a focus of anti-social behaviour. He undertook to re-examine the smoking area. Mr. Pettifer commented that the site had suffered from waiting for redevelopment but it had been accepted that it would not be redeveloped in the near future and that improvements were needed in the meantime. No date was available for interim improvements.<br/><u>Reliability</u><br/>Council noted that services were cancelled without warning and no reliability statistics were available. Mr. Norwell advised that there was currently no shortage of drivers and the Annual Report showed 90% punctuality across the Cambridge East region, of which Bedford was a part, and 97/98% in the Bedford area. The M50 service was part of the Midlands region and excluded from these figures. He added schedules would be changing in August and additional time would be allowed to implement these. The 51 would become a 30 minute service but Grant Palmer had won the Bedford BC tender for the former 125/126 services which would also be routed along the High Street/Church Lane/Lovell Road.<br/><u>Unsuitable Buses</u><br/>Residents had complained about the age of the buses and double deckers damaging rural roads and verges. Mr. Norwell advised that there were 15 double deckers in service which were 15 years old. The majority of buses including most single deckers were 6-7 years old. From August, 90% of 51 service would be single deckers. Double deckers were needed on some routes during rush hours and so had to be used at other times.<br/><u>Competition</u><br/>Mr. Norwell advised that there was more competition in the Bedford area than elsewhere and that the Competition Commission was currently investigating the whole industry. Mr. Pettifer noted that 15% of services were supported by the Borough Council, mostly in the rural area, but the biggest competitor was the car. Bedford BC tried to link in with commercial services and the new Grant Palmer service would go to the railway station. The Borough had bid for money for a service later in the evening but had been unsuccessful. Community Transport monies could be utilised but any scheme would need to be community led. Comments on the new services would be welcomed from parishes. Mr. Norwell added that because of Bedford BC support for bus services, Stagecoach was willing to invest in the area.<br/>Chairman thanked both Mr. Norwell and Mr. Pettifer for attending.</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p>                   |
| <p>11. <b><u>Appointment of Litter Picker:-</u></b><br/>Clerk had received 2 applications for the post of litter picker. Cllrs. Olney, J. Saunders and Taylor to interview.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><u>Action</u><br/>PO/JS/<br/>MT</p> |
| <p>12. <b><u>Appointment of Bus Shelter Cleaner:-</u></b><br/>The applicants for the litter picking post had also applied for that of bus shelter cleaner, one of whom was only interested if he was also awarded both contracts. Cllrs. Olney, J. Saunders &amp; Taylor to interview for both posts together.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><u>Action</u><br/>PO/JS/<br/>MT</p> |
| <p>13. <b><u>New Sport and Leisure Facilities:-</u></b><br/>Chairman had received two independent responses to the request in the Newsletter for suggestions for new sport and leisure facilities asking for a trampoline outside the play area. Residents still also wanted a boule pitch. Cllr. White noted that a trampoline would be expensive as it would require a pit and a means to remove water. Proposed by Cllr. Olney, seconded by Cllr. Jones that Council install a boule pitch this year and investigate a trampoline for next year.<br/><b>Resolved</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><u>Action</u></p>                   |

<p>Cllr. Baily volunteered to obtain a specification from the Boule Society and Clerk to write to ORA requesting permission to site the pitch on the Playing Field and asking if they would be content to run it as with the tennis court. Council had also allocated monies for a disabled access swing and Clerk to investigate products suitable for public site.</p>	<p>RB Clerk Clerk</p>
<p><b>14. Highways Matters:</b> Cllr. Olney was pursuing the Grenidge Way drains with Bedford BC. Anglian Water had yet to repair the manhole on the bridge and Clerk to chase. Residents had complained about speeding in Pavenham Road and Clerk to request 30mph roundel painted on the road or chevrons from Bedford BC. Residents might be interested in training to operate the Speed Indication Device and Cllr. Fardon to advise Clerk. Chairman confirmed that Bedford BC had no monies for traffic lights on the bridges.</p>	<p><u>Action</u> PO Clerk Clerk SF</p>
<p><b>15. Oakley Sustainability Project:</b> Cllr. Olney reported that a Friends of Browns Wood and Judges Spinney Group to be discussed at the next meeting. An Open Day would be held in October and a street lighting questionnaire was being put together.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>
<p><b>16. Borough Councillor's Report:</b> Cllr. Olney reported that the Oakley crossroads would be resurfaced this financial year. The Allocations &amp; Designations Plan would be discussed by the Executive on 13.07.11. and the Gypsy &amp; Traveller sites would be removed into a separate document following a Court of Appeal ruling on Regional Spatial Strategy targets. The proposed Meadow Lane site was no longer viable for gypsies &amp; travellers following noise and odour tests but Bedford BC was seeking alternative urban sites. Government policy was that gypsies and travellers should be housed on sites also suitable for business use or with suitable business facilities nearby. The Allocations &amp; Designations Plan would be issued for final consultation in September.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>
<p><b>17. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:</b> <b>Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b> Application No: 11/00937/FUL – single storey rear extension at 28, Hunts Path Parish Comments: No objection Decision/Date: Permission 06.06.11.  Application No: 11/01073/FUL – extension &amp; alterations to existing bungalow to form 2 storey chalet style bungalow at 2, Westfield Road Parish Comments: No objection but concern that works are still too extensive to be considered an extension Decision/Date: Permission 20.06.11.  <b>Applications received since last Council meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b> a) Application No: 11/01108/FUL – single storey extension to library to form reading room at Lincroft School Parish Comments: No objection  b) Application No: 11/01230/FUL – single storey rear extension at 40, Reynes Drive Parish Comments: No objection</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>
<p><b>18. Correspondence:</b> a) Resident had requested a copy of the grass cutting schedule. Clerk to send. Resident had also complained that verges were still cut during the dry spell when the grass was not growing. Schedule includes cuts approximately 3 weekly and Council was content with this. b) Bedford BC – Assembly Conference 21.07.11. Cllrs. Olney, Sansom &amp; Chairman to attend c) Oakley Rangers - thank you for donation. U 14 team won County Final 6-0.</p>	<p><u>Action</u> Clerk</p>
<p><b>19. Grant Applications:</b> none</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>

**20. Finance Matters:****a) Accounts for period up to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011****Income and balances:**

NatWest Bank - Current account balance at 30.06.11.	£21,552.67
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 30.06.11.	£8,745.91
NatWest Bank – Bonus Saver account balance at 30.06.11.	£40,000.00
NatWest - Fixed Rate Bond at 30.06.11.	£140,000.00

**Received since previous meeting**

Interest	£0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.89</b>

**Payments Already Made:**

H M Revenue - PAYE	£593.48	<b>Chq. No.</b> 659
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**Payments Made:**

Wildman Transport - emptying bottle bank 14.06.11.	£112.80	660
M J Granger Grounds Maintenance - grass cutting 13.06.11. & 21.06.11.	£1,320.00	661
Kallkwik – printing summer Newsletter	£565.00	662
Oakley Village Hall – Committee Room hire 05.07.11. 3hrs @ £6/ph	£18.00	663
Clerk – salary and expenses 01.06.11. – 30.06.11.	£630.04	664
D Steynor - bus shelter cleaning June	£29.90	665
J Walker – litter collection @ £47/wk (4 weeks)	£188.00	666
<b>Total payments this meeting</b>	<b>£3,457.22</b>	

**Resolved:** to approve the accounts for payment.

Clerk

**21. Date of next Council meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Chairman