Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Friday 26th July 2024 at 16.00hrs in the Council Chamber at Shefford House, 15 High Street, Shefford, SG17 5DD or viewed using www.zoom.us

Present: Cllrs Ken Pollard (Chair), Paul Mackin, Den Fensome, Steve Nash, Nicola King, Lisa Hayes, and Tony Dawson.

On Zoom: Cllr Mark Greenwood, Fred Wilson and Jez Perkins, and F Fitch (Town Clerk).

Police Crime Commissioner John Tizard, and five members of the public.

Town Clerk: Checka Quinlan (Admin Assistant).

The meeting started late following Police Crime Commissioner John Tizard addressing the Full Council.

1. **Apologies:** received from Cllr Elsa Tattersfield, and Ward Cllrs Anthony Brown and Mark Liddiard.

2. **Declarations of interest:** none declared.

3. **Minutes**
   The minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 28th June 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair. The Zoom recording of the meeting was agreed to be deleted.

4. **Matters arising**
   No matters arising.

5. **Public Question Time**
   A query regarding the collection of redundant garden waste bins was raised.
   CQ presented a resident's query regarding the ownership of the overgrown vegetation on Ivel Road.
   FW gave an update on the status of land adoption of Sekaran Close between Settle and Central Bedfordshire Council.

6. **Central Bedfordshire Council**
   No report was received.

7. **Crime**
   It was reported that there were forty-three recorded offences for the first twenty-six days of July 2024. A summary of offences include: seven instances of assault without injury; five instances of shoplifting; four instances of stalking; four instances of public fear, alarm or distress; three instances of assault with injury; two instances of a sexual nature; two instances of other criminal damage; one instance of trafficking of drugs; one instance of criminal damage – residential; one instance of attempted burglary – business and commercial; one instance of interfering with a motor vehicle; one instance of theft from a motor vehicle; one instance of making off without

payment; one instance of residential burglary – home; one instance of malicious communications; one instance of blackmail; one instance of arson not endangering life; one instance of state or public order; one instance of other theft; one instance of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle; one instance of possession of controlled drugs (cannabis); one instance of criminal damage to a vehicle; and one instance of assault with intent to cause serious harm.
CQ gave a report, which included: an update on RadioLink in the town; the disappointing turnout at the first ShopWatch meeting (FF will attend the next meeting); the apprehension of a prolific Shefford shoplifter; the relocation of the weapons bin from Bellcote Meadow Millennium Green to another site outside of Shefford; the recent fire on Morrisons land and the CCTV footage request; the new CCTV camera installed on the corner of the Shefford Library and the required removal and lifting of various trees to create a clear view along Church Walk and into St Michael's Close Play Area; the recent and upcoming Police and Community Safety patrols in Shefford; the recent increase in anti-social behaviour, such as burnt out bins in the Meads Open Space; social media posts and personal interactions with parents regarding anti-social behaviour that were carried out by PCSO Tasha Healey; the Op Trenton stop searching of two gang members; the continued closure of the public toilets; and an incident with a yellow and black scooter, which is being followed up by PC Jack Sharp.

It was resolved to keep the public toilets at North Bridge Street closed due to the continuing instances of anti-social behaviour in the Town, and to review this decision again at the September meeting of the Full Council.

8. Town Mayor's Announcements

The report included: attendances at the Shefford Duck Race, the Bedfordshire Games, the Police Priority Setting meeting, Reverend Lorna Valentine's leaving service, a play portraying the story of the Jewish Evacuees performed by school children, the Bedford River Festival; a Watch Schemes recruitment effort at the Shefford Markets; and the future attendance at Chicksands Cocktails.
KP presented the Town Clerk's report, which included: an update on the Clerk's recovery from a recent illness; the routing of any councillor and public correspondence through the Town Clerk; the upcoming Mayoral meetings; the closure of the office during August; the success of the Summer Fun Day; a certificate of appreciation from Acorn Pre-school and the Mighty Oaks; achieving a fifth consecutive Green Flag for Bellcote Meadow Millennium Green; and the upcoming Annual Summer Picnic Day at Bellcote Meadow Millennium Green.

9. Shefford Youth Involvement

NK reported on the work accomplished with the Police and Community Safety Team regarding the recent anti-social behaviour incidents, and the detached work carried out; all information/intelligence is fed back to the relevant organisations.
The 2024 summer programme "Quest" has now started and the turnout has been exceptional. The full statistics of attendees will be circulated once the programme has finished.

Grand Union Housing Group is currently in talks regarding a business merger; however, this will not affect the Youth Involvement Team.

10. Planning and Highways

A report on the committee meeting held on 3rd July 2024 was approved for publication on the website.

11. Services and Environment

A report on the committee meeting held on 10th July 2024 was approved for publication on the website, and the recommendation was approved as follows:

Recommendation by Delegated Powers to be made to Full Council to hire a Santa Grotto from Amers Amusements (measuring 7m by 3m, including a snow machine and the provision of a Santa) as an alternative Christmas event to the Keech Hospices 'BobSleigh'. The cost will be funded through the Council's 2024/2025 events revenue budget and the Earmarked Reserve 'Events' Fund. It was noted that sweets or small presents could be provided through the Mayor's allowance or donated by local businesses.

12. Finance and Strategy

A report on the committee meeting held on 17th July 2024 was approved for publication on the website, and the recommendation was approved as follows:

Recommendation by Delegated Powers to be made to Full Council for Leena Bains to continue to provide the Council's Internal Audit service for a further three financial years (2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027).

13. Accounts

The full list of payments for June 2024 was approved (shown below).

Supplier/Contractor	Description	Net Cost	VAT	Total Cost
Zen Internet	Broadband	65.99	13.20	79.19
Opus Energy	Electric - car park	111.93	5.60	117.53
Vivi Voip	Phones	31.00	6.20	37.20
Smartest Energy	Gas - Shefford House	115.12	5.76	120.88
Smartest Energy	Electric - Shefford House	137.31	6.86	144.17
British Gas	Electric – toilets	69.57	3.47	73.04
EE	Phones	22.52	4.07	26.59
British Gas	Electric – Hub	59.37	2.96	62.33
Lloyds payments card	Sundries	187.20	0.00	187.20
		800.01	48.12	848.13

Meeting closed 17:31hrs.