Minutes of the Services and Environment Committee held on 9th October 2024 at 18.00hrs using www.zoom.us

Present: Cllrs Mark Greenwood (Chair), Fred Wilson, Nicola King and Danny Cummins.

Town Clerk: F Fitch and Checka Quinlan (Admin Assistant).

Five members of the public

1. **Apologies**: received from Cllrs Jez Perkins, Ken Pollard, Tony Dawson, Paul Mackin, Den Fensome and Elsa Tattersfield.

2. **Declarations of interest:** MG declared an interest in Agenda item 7 due to being a Resident Director of the Shefford Leys Management Company. He left the meeting when the matter was reviewed, and a resolution made.

3. **Minutes**
   The minutes of the meeting of the committee on 11th September 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed digitally by the Chair. The Zoom recording was agreed to be deleted.

4. **Public Question Time**
   Three members of the public separately presented their concerns on the safety and adequacy of the wooden bridge leading from Angle Green to Millpond Meadow, including an alleged breach of planning conditions. This matter was reviewed by the Committee in Agenda item 7.

5. **Communications**
   It was reported that the articles for the winter edition of the Newsline have been passed to Character Press for editing. The publication is expected to be ready for distribution by the end of October 2024.

6. **Events**
   A report on upcoming events was reviewed by the Committee, including Remembrance and Armistice Day Services, and Christmas events: the Christmas Grotto; the Town Carol Service; the Christmas Tree Festival and the Town Council Christmas gathering.

7. **Shefford Leys Bridge**
   Following the presentation of two public questions at the 27th September 2024 Full Council meeting, the two questions, together with an additional question, were reviewed by the Committee. The questions were raised by residents living on the Shefford Leys Housing Development detailing their concerns on the safety and adequacy of the wooden bridge leading from Angle Green to Millpond Meadow and the surrounding land. The Town Clerk reported that these same concerns were raised last year by residents, and following review by the Committee, a letter was

sent from the Town Council to Bloor Homes (the current owners of the bridge and surrounding land, and who are therefore responsible for the maintenance of the bridge and its safe condition) outlining the residents' concerns on the degradation of the wooden footbridge and requesting an update regarding the matter going forward; no response was received from Bloor Homes.

It was resolved by Delegated Powers for the Town Clerk to send a further letter (more strongly worded) to Bloor Homes with the request for a representative(s) from Bloor Homes to have an on-site meeting with DC and FW to discuss safety concerns and design features of the bridge.

8. **Old Bridge Way**

A public question was re-presented (initially presented to Members at the previous meeting and then again at the 27th September 2024 Full Council meeting) to the Committee for review, raising a resident's safety concerns regarding a clump of black nightshade shrubs (with toxic berries) growing on land in Old Bridge Way. FF conveyed that the matter had been reported to Central Bedfordshire Council via Fix My Street; however, the case had been closed by the Environmental Services Team stating that as the land is private, it would not be down to Central Bedfordshire Council to maintain.

It was resolved by Delegated Powers to approach volunteers from the Shefford Greenspace Conservation Group to ask them if they would consider removing the shrubs.

Meeting closed 18.40hrs