



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2018
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M North (Chair)
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr M Russell (Vice Chair)
Cllr P Sheldon
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr S Watkins

Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council (BTC)
Mrs J Durn – Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
Members of Public – 1
Staff – 3

B27/0201 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Fage, Cllr T Woodward

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

Cllr J Medlock, Cllr S Patel

B27/0202 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- B27/0202.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – none
B27/0202.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – item7a, Cllr S Watkins.

Cllr B Briars requested a dispensation for all Councillors in respect agenda item 11e. A dispensation was granted by the Town Clerk to enable consideration of agenda item 11e, as without the dispensation so great a proportion of the council or authority would be prohibited from participating in that business as to impede the council's or authority's transaction of that business.

B27/0203 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On 21 February the Mayor attended the unveiling of the Mosaic in the town.

The Deputy Mayor attended the Leighton Buzzard Town Council's Civic Service on Sunday 25 February 2018 at All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard.

The Mayor reminded Councillors to please respond to the invitation to the Civic Service on Sunday 18 March as soon as possible.

B27/0204 4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no questions from members of the public.

B27/0205 5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

There was no invited speaker.

B27/0206 6. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

There were no Members questions.

B27/0207 7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

B27/0207.1 a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 February 2018.

b. Members received the Recommendations and Resolutions of the (TCM) Town Centre Management meeting held on 20 February 2018.

Market Layout and Management: Cllr D Albone was concerned that the views of the market traders would also be taken into consideration and would like to know what consultation steps have been taken.

Cllr M Russell said that these concerns had been addressed at the TCM; however, it was generally felt that the recommendations should go ahead; with a review being carried out after a period of 6 months.

B27/0208 8. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

B27/0209 9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

B27/0209.1 a. **CB/18/00501/FULL – 8 The Baulk, Biggleswade SG18 0PT**
Attic conversion, new rear dormer and repositioning of solar heating panels on rear slope of roof.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

B27/0210 10. **ACCOUNTS**

Financial Administration

Members received the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 January 2018.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure
- iii. Income and Expenditure by budget heading.
- iv. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 January 2018.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the accounts as presented

B27/0211 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

B27/0211.1 a. CB/TCA/18/0039 – Request for Works to Trees in a Conservation Area: 37 London Road, Biggleswade SG188ED

The Town Council raised **NO OBJECTION** to this request.

B27/0211.2 b. CB/TCA/18/0049 – Request for Works to a Tree in a Conservation Area: 8 Station Road, Biggleswade SG188AL

The Town Council raised **NO OBJECTION** to this request, but were confused about the accuracy of the location provided on this submission.

B27/0211.3 c. CB/TCA/18/00050 – Request for Works to a Tree in a Conservation Area: 10 Station Road, Biggleswade SG188AL

The Town Council raised **NO OBJECTION** to this request.

B27/0211.4 d. CB/18/TRE/18/00053 – Request for Works to Trees protected by a Protection Order: Holme Woods, London Road, Biggleswade SG189SS

The Town Council raised **NO OBJECTION** to this request.

B27/0211.5 e. Consultation on Changes to Bin Collections

Cllr M Russell reported that BTC held the view that the proposed changes to bin collections will not increase recycling, and are in fact more likely to lead to more fly tipping. BTC are not keen on separate bins for cardboard and glass; and are also not keen on paying for removal of green waste, which in turn would lead to an increase in garden fires.

Cllr I Bond requested a recorded vote: 11 Councillors attended the meeting. 6 in favour, 5 abstentions were recorded.

It was **RESOLVED** that a response should be sent to maintain the two weekly collections, no charges for removal of green waste and no separate bins for recycling, the proposals are unfair and unbalanced. The Town Clerk will forward BTC response accordingly.

B27/0212 12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

B27/0212.1 a. Planning Application Outcomes

Following discussion this item was **NOTED**

B27/0212.2 b. Clean up of Footpath from Back Street to Grasmere Road

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that clean-up work is in progress. It has unfortunately been hampered by bad weather this week, but is ongoing.

Cllr M Russell asked that the Minutes record thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk and his team, together with Biggleswade Good Neighbours volunteers and CBC, for carrying out this work.

B27/0213 **13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mr Bacon commented that road signs and sandbags were lying around on the ground by the Baulk, and are blocking vision of the main road directional signs.

Cllr S Watkins has seen these and reported it to CBC.

Mr Bacon is also concerned that there is a proposed road closure for traffic out of Palace Street to Station Road.

The Chairman assured Mr Bacon that this is not an official diversion.

B27/0214 **14. EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution was moved that it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue was discussed.

(Planning Application)

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council resolve to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

B27/0214.1 **a. Planning Application CB/17/05929/FULL – Grounds Maintenance Facilities at Drove Road**

Cllr S Watkins and Mr R McGregor met with CBC Planning Officer in order to clarify the BTC application and a modified plan will be prepared.

Meeting concluded 7.26pm