



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**  
**AT 7PM VIA ZOOM WEBINAR FUNCTION**



**PRESENT:**

Cllr M. Russell (Chairman)  
Cllr G. Fage (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr I. Bond  
Cllr K Brown  
Cllr F. Foster  
Cllr H. Ramsay  
Cllr M. Foster  
Cllr M. Knight  
Cllr M. North  
Cllr R. Pullinger  
Cllr D. Strachan  
Cllr C. Thomas  
Cllr J. Woodhead

Mr P Tarrant – Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Biggleswade Town Council  
Mr P Truppin – Assistant Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council  
Mrs S van der Merwe – Professional Assistant, Biggleswade Town Council

Members of Public – 1

**Meeting Formalities:**

Following a reminder to meeting attendees, both panel and public, that this is a formal meeting, the Mayor advised that members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak during public open session but not at other times. The meeting is being filmed and by being present attendees are deemed to have agreed be filmed and to the use of those images and sound recordings. The Mayor advised that attendees should not disclose any personal information of individuals as this would infringe the Data Protection Rights of the individual. The Mayor asked everyone to mute their microphones when not speaking.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr L Fage.

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING**

- a. The meeting received and reviewed the Minutes of the **Biggleswade Town Council Annual Assembly of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.**

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the **Minutes of the Biggleswade Annual Assembly Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.**

4. **ANNUAL REPORT OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Annual Report as included in the Agenda was presented by Cllr Russell.

5. **REPORTS**

a. **PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

The Public Land and Open Spaces Report as included in the Agenda was presented by the Town Clerk & Chief Executive on behalf of the Chairman, Cllr F Foster.

b. **TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Town Centre Management Report as included in the Agenda was presented by the Chairman, Cllr G Fage.

c. **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

The Finance & General Purpose Report as included in the Agenda was presented by the Chairman, Cllr H Ramsay.

d. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Personnel Committee Report as included in the Agenda was presented by the Chairman, Cllr Woodhead.

Copies of all reports are available in booklet form from the Biggleswade Town Council offices.

6. **OPEN FORUM – MATTERS RELATING TO BIGGLESWADE**

a. Ward Councillors: There were no matters relating to Biggleswade.

b. Town Councillors: There were no matters relating to Biggleswade.

7. **OPEN FORUM**

The Chairman asked for questions to be taken at this point:

a. **Mr Euan Duncan, Reporter for the Biggleswade Chronicle**

Mr Duncan asked what the replacement will be for the planned changes to Century House on the Market Square.

Cllr G Fage advised that the Council believes Century House is not the best use of space on the Market Square. Other matters on which the planned changes may depend, such as location of public toilets and bus routes, are being considered in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire Council. Earmarked S106 monies for the Town Centre will be used to create new landscaping, soft seating spaces and a more modern town centre.

The Town Clerk & Chief Executive added that the Town Council has been working closely with Central Bedfordshire Council in planning the future of the Market Square. Central Bedfordshire Council has commissioned an independent review to put forward ideas for consideration and the Town Council looks forward to receiving that report to examine what commercial opportunities might be presented.

