



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**  
**AT 7PM AT BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE OLD**  
**COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8DL**



**PRESENT:**

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

Mr P. Tarrant – Chief Executive & Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council  
Mr K. Hosseini – Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships, Biggleswade Town Council  
Ms W. Solomon – Head of Finance & Planning, Biggleswade Town Council  
Mrs S. van der Merwe – Professional Assistant, Biggleswade Town Council (Meeting Administrator)

**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, Cllr M Foster, Cllr M North.

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:**

None.

**b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:**

None.

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**a. Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation**

Cllr Russell advised that the Regulation 14 Consultation closed on Monday 8 November at 09:00 with 53 formal responses received, including comments from statutory bodies such as Historic England, Central Bedfordshire Council and the NHS.

The information is being collated and Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group will meet on 10 November 2021 with Dave Chetwyn of Urban Vision CIC to look at the responses and make possible amendments, depending on the issues raised. The updated Neighbourhood Plan will be brought back to a Town Council Meeting in the near future, together with the Consultation Statement, and if approved by the Town Council, will then be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council.

b. **Diwali Celebrations**

Cllr Russell, Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Bond and Cllr North attended a Diwali celebration at the Wetherley Centre on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and learned more about the symbolism and customs of Diwali. The Councillors were impressed by the beautiful variety of traditional dress and traditional dancing as part of the celebration.

4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

a. **Mr. Jonathan Latimer – Proposed Waiting Restrictions**

Mr. Latimer is a resident of Drove Road and believes the planned implementation of double yellow lines will have significant impact on residents on Drove Road. Mr. Latimer added that there is already a shortage of parking and residents do not believe the traffic flow is restricted by the current parking.

b. **Ms. Deborah Fisher – Proposed Waiting Restrictions**

Ms Fisher is a resident of Orchard Close and is speaking for and on behalf of a number of neighbours. Ms Fisher stated she has only seen one small notice on a lamp post of the intended plans and that residents have claimed they have not been notified by Central Bedfordshire Council via leaflet.

Ms Fisher explained that recent installations of yellow lines along Hitchmead Road, Grosvenor Gardens and the Orchard Close junction for safety reasons have already reduced the amount of on-street parking that was previously available. Residents in this area have very few driveways and rely on street parking in Hitchmead Road and Drove Road. Ms Fisher asked if Central Bedfordshire Council have considered the effect on parking in neighbouring roads. Ms Fisher noted that these roads are subject to additional heavy traffic due to school drop-offs, staff from the industrial units nearby, commuters who park and then head off to the station, residents on The Baulk as a result of recent changes to on-street parking on The Baulk, and people using the Weatherley Centre for classes.

Ms Fisher added that there are already continuous problems with people parking on the existing double yellow lines. She feels that because there is no regular or consistent enforcement of parking on double yellow lines on these roads, people will continue to park on them.

5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

None.

**6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None.

**7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received the Minutes of the **Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

The following amendments were requested:

- Item 3b – Should be listed as “Cllr G Fage”;
- Item 9b – Cllr G Fage – Amend to the “Town Council **AGREED** the proposed waiting restrictions”;
- Item 9c – Cllr D Strachan – Amend “Financial Regulations”;
- Item 13 – Cllr D Strachan – Change “nurseries” to “nurses”.

Following these amendments, the Minutes were **APPROVED**.

- b. Members received and **APPROVED** the Minutes of the **Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

**8. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**9. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a. **Proposed Waiting Restrictions**

Members were requested to consider Central Bedfordshire Council's proposed waiting restrictions on a number of roads.

**Drove Road – East side:**

Cllr Thomas stated that the proposed changes to Drove Road will have a negative impact on residents on that road who have nowhere else to park and he therefore does not support those changes.

Cllr Woodhead added that properties along Drove Road have no driveways so these changes would force residents to park in other streets. He also pointed out that the bus stop is on that side of the street and it is not clear whether this has been taken into account. He questioned whether the broader effect on parking throughout the Town has been investigated.

Cllr Albone believes these plans are unnecessary and will cause residents hardship.

Cllr Brown questioned what effects these plans would have on parking on The Baulk, given that a left turn to exit from The Baulk requires veering off to the left – any cars parked there would require traffic to pull out into the stream of oncoming traffic.

Cllr G Fage commented he had investigated the last 5 years' records on "crashmap.com" which shows a record of accidents and there is only one record of a minor incident on The Baulk. He believes cars travelling north to south along Drove Road would need to pull out into oncoming traffic.

Cllr Bond advised Members that it is important that representatives of the Town Council should appear before the Traffic Management Committee, with clear justifications for the Town Council's objections.

Cllr Pullinger commented that the reason for these changes appears to be linked to cars impeding the buses being able to use the bus stop. He added it would be more appropriate to have a dedicated bus stop with appropriate restrictions for the hours of usage.

Cllr Knight believes the proposed waiting restrictions to be a failure of integrated planning policy and believes there should be longer-term plans for how the older roads of Biggleswade will work as the town expands.

Cllr Woodhead pointed out that there is a large build-out at the mouth of The Baulk which does not appear to have been considered in these plans. There is the potential to reduce the build-out to make it safer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY OBJECTS** to these planned proposals on the following grounds:

- Loss of residents' parking spaces;
- The knock-on effect of residents having to park in nearby streets;
- The build-out on The Baulk needs to be reduced.

**Rose Lane – East side:**

Cllr Albone stated that the loss of parking spaces in that area, where there is little off-street parking, will have a substantial effect on residents.

Cllr Strachan advised this is a one-way street with little traffic, therefore is wide enough to have the parking without detrimental effect to the free flow of traffic and safety.

Cllr Knight added that the current parking is a deterrent to speeding and believes that should these parking spaces be removed, speed reduction techniques may need to be implemented in the future through installation of speed reduction cushions.

Cllr G Fage commented that there are two lanes and in order to turn right into Sun Street, you need to be in the right-hand lane with left-hand lane leading to Crab Lane, down to the Rose Lane Car Park and ASDA. He has been informed there have been numerous incidents of cars in the wrong lane. He has been advised that the plans to remove those parking spaces will give drivers room to use the correct lanes.

Cllr F Foster regularly uses that stretch of road and does not believe there to be any issue with the current car parking spaces.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECTS** to these planned proposals on the basis of the loss of residents' parking where there is already little off-street parking.

**Chambers Way – North-west side**  
**Chambers Way – South-east side, north-east of the junction with London Road**  
**Chambers Way – South-east side, from the north-eastern side**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**Avocet Close – West side:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECTS** to this proposal on the grounds of loss of residents' parking spaces.

**Kitelands Road:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**Fairfield Road:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this proposal.

It was further **RESOLVED** that Officers write to Central Bedfordshire Council requesting a summary for each proposal explaining why the proposals are being put forward.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask Central Bedfordshire Council why residents on these streets have not been formally informed via leaflets.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **CB/21/04465/full – 3 Tate Drive, Biggleswade, SG18 8UD**

Loft conversion to create two bedrooms with front roof lights and three rear dormer windows.

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.

b. **CB/TRE/21/00517 – 3 Dells Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 8LP**

Works to tree(s) protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Lime tree lopped and trimmed back.

This planning application was **NOTED**.

**11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Biggleswade Footpath No. 24**

Cllr Albone questioned why the footpath needs to be closed for this boundary fence building, which will inconvenience the public. Also, the map appears to be incorrect and this should be pointed out to Central Bedfordshire Council – the footpath is in the process of being changed.

Cllr F Foster asked why there was no key to the map.

It was **AGREED** to write to Central Bedfordshire Council to a) ask why Footpath 24 pathway needs to be closed and to b) point out that the map provided appears to be incorrect.

b. **Part of Bridleway No. 58**

This temporary closure was noted.

12. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members received and **APPROVED** the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021;
- ii. Summary Income and Expenditure by Committee to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021;
- iii. Detailed Income and Expenditure by Committee to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021;
- iv. Lloyds Bank Payment Listing to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

13. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

Cllr Bond informed the members of the public present that the Traffic Management Committee Meeting is informal and he will contact the members of the public present at this meeting to advise them of the dates for the Traffic Management Committee meeting to enable them to attend.

14. **EXEMPT**

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.

There were no exempt items.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.42 pm