



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2023
AT 7.00PM AT BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8DL



PRESENT:

Cllr G Fage (Chairman)
Cllr M Russell (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr D Albone
Cllr I Bond
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M Knight
Cllr R Pullinger
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr J Woodhead

Mr P Tarrant – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Mr K Hosseini – Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships
Ms S Van Der Merwe – Deputy HR & Administrator
Ms F Gumush – Meetings Administrator

Members of the Public – 3

Meeting Formalities:

Following a reminder to meeting attendees 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 to 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 that individual.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K Brown, Cllr L Fage, Cllr M North.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:

None.

b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:

Cllr D Strachan for Item 10g.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Christmas Carol Concert in Sandy

On Saturday 17th December 2022, Cllr G Fage had the pleasure of attending the Christmas Carol Concert organised by the Mayor of Sandy in St Mary's Church. Cllr G Fage noted that it was a memorable well attended evening.

b. Biggleswade District Choral Society Concert

On Saturday 17th December 2022, Cllr G Fage attended a concert organised by the Biggleswade District Choral Society at St. Andrew's Church. Cllr G Fage noted that it was a very enjoyable evening.

c. Biggleswade Town vs Biggleswade FC Football Match

On Monday 26th December 2022 Cllr G Fage attended the Biggleswade Town vs Biggleswade FC football match. This was a very enjoyable Boxing Day match for the local derby of Biggleswade Town vs Biggleswade FC where Biggleswade FC won the match 2-0.

d. Bedfordshire Police Christmas Service

On Wednesday 21st December Cllr Russell attended the Bedfordshire Police Christmas Service held at the Church of the Transfiguration in Kempston in the presence of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and the Bishop of Bedford.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No member of the public wished to speak.

5. INVITED SPEAKER

No guest speaker was invited.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Knight commented that there was temporary signage in Council car parks which predate the permanent signage and has the same information and asked if it was possible remove these.

Cllr Knight also asked if laminated signage relating to social distancing rules around town, particularly in play area parks, could also be removed.

7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

a. Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting 1st December 2022

Members pointed to an error on minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting whereby several members names were missed out as not being present. Cllr K Brown, Cllr L Fage and Cllr R Pullinger names will need to be added to the minutes.

Subject to these amendments the Minutes were **APPROVED** as an accurate record of the Town Council Meeting held on **1st December 2022**.

b. **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held Tuesday 13th December 2022**

Item 9c Parking Standards. Members pointed out that the word 'should' was missing in the second paragraph down. The sentence should read "whether the lists of streets are accurate or should include more residential areas".

Item 10g. The sentence should read the 'Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan' not the Biggleswade Town Council Neighbourhood Plan'.

Item 10h. It should be corrected as 'The item was noted'.

Subject to these amendments the Minutes were **APPROVED** as an accurate record of the Town Council Meeting held on **13th December 2022**.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

9. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **General Powers of Competence**

The Council **RESOLVED** that it wishes to exercise the General Power of Competence under SI.961 of The Localism Act 2011 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2012. Further, that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the Clerk specifically that at least two thirds of the Members of the Council hold office as a result of being declared elected and that at the time of this resolution the Clerk holds the Certificate in local Council Administration and has completed training in the exercise of this power.

b. **Proposed Diversion of parts of Biggleswade Footpath 24**

Members **NOTED** the letter submitted by Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the diversion.

10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **CB/19/04301/OUT - Land North of Biggleswade SG18 0HB**

Cllr Russell proposed amendments to the letter of objection ahead of it being sent to Central Bedfordshire Council's Planning Application Team.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY OBJECTS** to this planning application on the grounds of the letter circulated in the Town Council agenda pack with the amendments proposed by Council and attaching with it the Transport Consultants' Report.

b. **CB/22/04514/FULL - Stratton Upper School, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JB**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application and look forward to the new facilities being shared with the wider community.

c. **CB/22/04742/FULL - 1A Havelock Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0DB**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided that the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

d. **CB/22/04815/FULL - 179 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade, SG18 8PB**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided that the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

e. **CB/22/04516/REG3 - 11 & 12 Woodlands, Dunton Lane, Biggleswade**

The Town Council **OBJECTS** to this planning application on the grounds that there is no flood risk or noise risk analysis reports present for this area.

f. **CB/22/04850/FULL - 10 Banks Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0DY**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided that the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

g. **CB/22/03789/FULL - 39 Dells Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 8LJ**

The Town Council **OBJECTS** to this planning application on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the surrounding buildings with regards to the colour of the exterior cladding as well as to the loss of parking outside the building.

h. **CB/22/04767/FULL - 8 Station Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8AL**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided that the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

i. **CB/22/04839/NMA - Phase 6B Stratton Business Park, East of Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade**

The application was **NOTED**.

j. **CB/22/04786/FULL - 38 & 40 Drove Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8HD**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided that the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

k. **CB/22/04656/FULL - 3 Dells Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 8LP**

The Town Council **OBJECTS** to this planning application on the grounds that there is insufficient detail on how the 'protected' tree will be protected with the structure.

l. **CB/22/04946/NMA - 234 London Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8PJ**

The application was **NOTED**.

11. **PLANNING APPLICATION OUTCOMES**

This report was **NOTED**.

12. ACCOUNTS

a. Financial Administration

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30/11/2022.
- ii. Summary Income and Expenditure by Committee 30/11/2022.
- iii. Detailed Income and Expenditure by Committee 30/11/2022.
- iv. List of payments made – Lloyds Bank 01/11/22 – 23/11/2022.
- v. List of payments made – Unity Trust 23/11/22 to 30/11/22.

All financial reports were **ACCEPTED** as laid out, subject checking of the figures presented for the Town Mayor's Charity.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Biggleswade Transport Interchange

Cllr G Fage commented on the signage regarding access to the Biggleswade Railway Station and called for Officers to write to Central Bedfordshire Council to ask for clearer signage which displays access to and from the train station exclusively.

b. ASDA Car Parking

Cllr M Russell indicated that the response from ASDA regarding car parking was lacking and proposed to write back to the Chairman of ASDA, Lord Rose, citing the inconsistencies of their response.

Cllr G Fage noting the discussions responded that as Chairman that some very good points were made and although the Town Council was writing to the most senior person in ASDA, the issue may also see some traction through media channels.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Russell write back to ASDA and underline the following points:

- That Town Council parking is free evenings and weekends therefore ASDA should not put a time limit on parking if they wished to be in line with the Council's car parks.
- Ask for clarity on whether ASDA are enforcing one and half or two hours of free parking.

Members also **AGREED** to bring the item back to the next Town Council agenda.

c. Lindsells Level Crossing Bridge

No updates were available for this item.

14. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No member of the public wished to speak.

15. **EXEMPT**

a. **Capital Assets Register Report**

Members **NOTED** the progress of the project and agreed the recommendation of the report which were to instruct the chartered surveyor to complete an exercise to provide commercial valuations of assets. Members also agreed to instruct the law firm to complete their work on assets to the value up to £30,000.

Members **AGREED** for the project to continue under the guidance of the Capital Assets Project Working Group.

b. **Development Proposal**

Members **NOTED** the proposal and agreed to invite the developers to Council once the developers had a clear outline plan backed up with the reserved option.

The Mayor closed the meeting at **8.10pm**