



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2022
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 I Bond
Cllr K Brown
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Knight
Cllr R Pullinger
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr J Woodhead
Cllr D Albone

Mr P Tarrant – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Mr K Hosseini – Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships
Ms H Calvert – Administration & HR Manager

Members of the Public – 0

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.

22/0152.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

22/0152.1 Cllr L Fage, Cllr M Foster, Cllr M North.

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

22/0152.2 None.

22/0153.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

22/0153.1 Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:

Item 10b – Cllr I Bond – Planning Application: Land to North of Lindsell's Crossing.

22/0153.2 Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:

Item 16a - Cllr D Strachan – Capital Assets Project Legal Costs.

22/0154.0 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

22/0154.1 Civic Service Flitwick

Cllr G Fage attended Flitwick's Civic Service on Sunday 9th October 2022. The service was hosted by Cllr Andy Snape.

22/0155.0 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No members of the public.

22/0156.0 INVITED SPEAKER

Tritax Symmetry shared a very informative presentation on Phase 3 of their development at Stratton Business Park.

22/0157.0 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

22/0157.1 Cllr Knight requested clarity on the social media post regarding the location of CCTV cameras. The locations of the cameras have been agreed on and this will be corrected in the post.

22/0157.2 Cllr Woodhead requested a meeting to discuss arrangements for the King's Coronation on 6th May 2023. It was confirmed that this item will be discussed at the next Town Centre Management Committee Meeting.

22/0157.3 Cllr Russell raised concerns on the closure of Station Road. The closure is due to run from 20th October 2022 to 17th November 2022. The issue is that residents will have difficulty accessing their properties on Saffron Road. It was agreed for Officers to gain further information from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding this closure.

22/0158.0 MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

From the Minutes of the **Town Council Meeting** held on **Tuesday 27th September 2022** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

22/0158.1 Page 9 - To read "Cllr M Foster" rather than "Cllr F Foster".

22/0158.2 Page 10 - Item 22/0144.1 – To use the word "adopted" rather than "confirmed".

22/0158.3 Page 11 to read "Only contain important context and decisions of the meeting".

22/0158.4 Page 12 – To read "Hitchmead Road" not "Hitchmead".

22/0158.5 Page 17 – Item A was removed from the proposal and the Minutes need to reflect this. To include an action for Councillors to explore Item A's proposal and understand if there are certain planning conditions in place.

22/0158.6 Subject to these amendments these Minutes were **APPROVED** as an accurate record of the Meeting from 27th September 2022.

22/0159.0 MATTERS ARISING

From the Minutes of the **Town Council Meeting** held on **Tuesday 27th September 2022** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

22/0159.1 Pg 10 - Item 22/0144.1 - It was noted that Item 29 on the Standing Orders document was removed. It was requested that Officers check that the correct version of the Standing Orders has been uploaded onto the Town Council website.

22/0159.2 Page 11 - Item 22/0144.4 - The Weatherley Centre will be offering a warm space for the public during the winter months. There will also be pamphlets distributed shortly on warm spaces that are available.

22/0159.3 Page 15 - Item 11q - Planning appeals - Members highlighted that planning appeals must be sent directly to the Inspectorate as well as online via the planning applications portal.

22/0159.4 Page 16 - Item 14a – Cllr F Foster requested an update on whether Asda had responded to the Town Council's letter. It was confirmed that no response has been received. It was agreed that if there is still no response that legal action should be taken.

22/0160.0 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22/0160.1 Bus Services

Members welcomed a new bus service provider following the withdrawal of two bus services. However, Members had concerns that the new provider will be offering a less frequent service. It was agreed beneficial for discussions to be held strategically with Central Bedfordshire Council. It was agreed for this to be discussed at the Biggleswade Joint Committee meeting on the 19th January 2023.

22/0160.2 Council and Committee Meetings Dates

It was agreed that a revised schedule, based on Members comments, be presented at a future Council meeting.

22/0161.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/0161.1 CB/22/03696/FULL – 13 South View, Biggleswade, SG18 8BZ

Demolition of the outbuilding and side building and erect a single storey rear extension.

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.

22/0160.2 CB/22/02881/DOC – Land to North of Lindsell’s level crossing, Biggleswade, SG18 0AD

Discharge of Condition 3 against planning permission CB/21/2168/FULL. Construction of new ramped and stepped bridleway bridge to facilitate the closure of Lindsell's level crossing; formation of new bridleway to western side of railway and associated works.

Details have been received to discharge condition(s) listed below to this planning permission.

Landscape Scheme has been amended. 3 No Development shall take place until a detailed planting and landscaping scheme, which seeks to mitigate satisfactorily the visual impact of the bridge on the landscape, as well as a landscape management plan (which includes consideration of the need for irrigation of the planting) and final design have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved soft landscaping scheme shall be implemented in full by the end of the full planting season immediately following the completion and/or first use of the development (a full planting season means the period from October to March). The trees, shrubs and grass shall subsequently be maintained in accordance with the approved landscape maintenance scheme for a minimum period of 5 years and any which die or are destroyed during this period shall be replaced during the next planting season. Reason: To screen the development and reduce the impact the proposal would have on the character and appearance of the area (Section 12 and 15, NPPF).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town **STRONGLY OBJECTS** to the discharge of Planning Condition 3 on the second revised plan and demands that Network Rail are obliged to implement the landscaping as per the plan approved at Development Management Committee in order to mitigate the visual impact of the bridge.

22/0160.3 CB/2203695/FULL – 17 Lime Tree Walk, Biggleswade, SG18 0DS

Proposed part two storey and part single storey rear extension. New porch to front elevation.

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.

22/0161.0 PLANNING APPLICATION OUTCOMES

This report was **NOTED**.

22/0162.0 ACCOUNTS

22/0162.1 Financial Administration

Members received and **APPROVED** the Accounts up to 31st August 2022 as follows:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31/08/2022.
- ii. Summary Income and Expenditure by Committee 31/08/2022.
- iii. Detailed Income and Expenditure by Committee 31/08/2022.

iv. Lloyds Bank Payment listing 31/08/2022.

22/0163.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

22/0163.1 CB/22/03012/FULL - 19A High Street Biggleswade

The enforcement case is on hold pending the outcome of planning application. BTC Officers have engaged with CBC planning Officers who are awaiting decision as of 4th October 2022. The decision will be referred back to CBC planning enforcement to take the most appropriate course of action.

22/0163.2 Public Notice – Temporary Closure – Biggleswade Footpath No. 21

This Public Notice is **NOTED**.

22/0163.3 ASDA Car Parking Time Reduction

The letters are **NOTED**. It was agreed that this item is brought back to the next Council meeting.

22/0163.4 Neighbourhood Plan – Result of the Referendum

Cllr M Russell informed Members that the Neighbourhood Plan passed referendum on 6th October 2022.

The result of the referendum was as follows:

Yes: 1857 (83.35%)

No: 371 (16.65%)

Turnout: 13.5%

The Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made', that is formally adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council shortly.

Members thanked Cllr Russell for her involvement throughout and congratulated this tremendous result.

22/0164.0 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

22/0164.1 No members of the public.

22/0165.0 EXEMPT

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

(16a. Capital Assets Project Legal Fees)

(16b. Hay Review)

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

22/0166.0 EXEMPT

22/0166.1 Capital Assets Project Legal Fees

It was agreed that future reports should not anonymise bidders.

Members agreed with recommendations 1 and 3, and for the Council to make provision for this work to be completed in a timely manner.

22/0166.2 Hay Review

Members will receive the minutes of the Hay Review by separate correspondence.

The Chairman ended the Meeting at 9pm