



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024**  
**AT 7.00PM AT BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**  
**THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8DL**



**PRESENT:**

Cllr M Foster (Mayor)  
Cllr I Agnew  
Cllr G Barrett  
Cllr J Jones  
Cllr M North  
Cllr M Russell  
Cllr A Skilton  
Cllr D Strachan  
Cllr C Thomas  
Cllr J Woodhead

Mr P Tarrant – Town Clerk & Chief Executive  
Mr K Hosseini – Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships  
Mr R Youngs – Finance Manager  
Ms F Gumush – Meetings Administrator

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.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

a. Cllr D Albone, Cllr P Guilcher, Cllr M Knight.

**b. NO APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr S Sajid.

**c. REMOTE ATTENDANCE**

Cllr S Patel.

**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**

None

4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

No member of the public wished to speak.

5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

No speaker was invited.

6. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were no Members' questions.

7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. P9. Accounts. Cllr Strachan asked that the minutes were reworded to say:

Members **RESOLVED** to note the Management Accounts report as attached in the agenda pack.

In addition, the usual financial documentation is available on the Council website.

Subject to these amendments the Minutes were **APPROVED** as an accurate record of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

- b. Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

P7. Matters arising. Cllr Strachan asked if any developments had been made with regards to the three items under Matters Arising in the last set of minutes.

Cllr Strachan asked if any developments had been made regarding a meeting with Mr Jones connected to the 5km run. The Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships indicated that Officers were going through the event document before consulting with Central Bedfordshire Council Safety Advisory Group. Cllr Strachan asked that the document, once confirmed, comes back to a Council agenda.

With regards to the Jerk Hub, the Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships pointed out that he had received no response from CBC with regards the Council's objections.

In relation to the invitation to a Rights of Way Officer to attend a Council meeting, the Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships noted that an invitation had been extended and a suitable time was being arranged.

P8. Item 9d. Cllr Skilton asked if CBC and the River Authority had been notified of the Council's resolution asking for remedial work along footpaths and the riverbanks.

The Head of Governance & Strategic Partnerships indicated that Officers have responded to CBC with the Council's resolution but had not yet received any feedback.

## 9. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### a. Precept Report 2024 - 2025

Ahead of discussions, both the Mayor and the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee publicly acknowledged and thanked Officers and Members for the huge amount of work that they had put into the preparation of the documentation for the Precept, and Budget process.

The Mayor noted that following the F&GP Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, Members were happy with the documents provided.

Following discussions Members **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation to agree a precept of £1,625,930, for the 2024/2025 financial year, an increase of 5.5% on the current year, or £10.64 for a Band D property.

## 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### a. CB/23/02195/FULL - The Plough House, London Road, Biggleswade, SG18 9TB

Demolition of 2 existing buildings and removal of pre-existing mobile home. Change of use of the land for the creation of 7 Gypsy/Traveller Pitches, comprising the siting of 7 static caravans (net 6) and 7 touring caravans alongside the erection of 1 dayroom.

The Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application, subject to consultation with neighbours and consideration of their comments and ask that the following points are taken into consideration:

- National Highways are appropriately consulted on particularly the access and egress from this site.
- The tree line and where the trees are going to be planted are considered.
- The views of Officers to be taken into account regarding the proximity to the A1.

### b. CB/TRE/24/00011 - Beaumont Park Nursing Home, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT

Works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order MB/88/00004 and in a Conservation Area: Overall crown reduction of 3m to suitable secondary growth points leaving the tree finish dimensions 18 m height 7m radius to London Plane (T1). To prevent future failure of overextended limbs, reduce the weight loading on the large limb and to clear the fabric of the building.

The Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application, subject to consultation with neighbours and consideration of their comments and subject to the views of the Arboreal Officer.

### c. CB/24/00060/REG3 - Edward Peake School, Potton Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0EJ

Erection of a new sports hall /activity space, new MUGA and associated external works and landscaping.

The Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application, subject to consultation with neighbours and consideration of their comments but ask that the following points are taken into consideration:

- Concern around the proximity to residents in the area.
- Concern about the impact of lighting from the new sports facilities to residents around there.
- To ensure that a contact is available for residents to call if they have any queries during the building phase.
- All consideration is given to residents during construction.
- To ensure that acoustic fencing is in place in advance of the development.

d. **CB/23/01105/FULL - Unit P, A1 London Retail Park, London Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8NE**

The applicants have been unable to provide a swept plan but have advised that collections mainly take place between Monday and Friday, rarely on a weekend unless there have been a significant volume of cars purchased on a Friday or Saturday. They look to attend at around 10am when the branch opens and try to avoid busy times so that they can park close to the branch in the adjacent parking bays.

**Previously on the agenda: 08/08/2023 - Stationing of a pod to the car park (for We Buy Any Car) retrospective.**

Members previously **OBJECTED** to this planning application on the grounds that:

- There will be a loss of parking spaces.
- There is potential risk to public safety due to the transporters loading and unloading within the main car park deliveries for all other businesses on the retail park take place in designated loading areas away from the public.

The Town Council **WITHDRAWS** its objection to this planning application; but will monitor this for the future as it does not believe it is appropriate for a retail park.

The Town Council wishes that timings should be enforced outside of the main retail hours.

11. **PLANNING APPLICATION OUTCOMES**

This report was **NOTED**.

12. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

There were no current accounts available for this meeting.

13. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Upcoming Roadworks on A1 Biggleswade to A1M junction 10**

Members discussed the correspondence from AtkinsRéalis with regards to the upcoming roadworks.

Members **NOTED** the correspondence but asked that Officers contact the company to ask if the surfacing to be carried out is the newer, quieter surfacing.

**14. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

No one from the public wished to speak.

**15. EXEMPT**

a. None.

The Mayor closed the meeting at **7.25pm**