

16 January 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby give notice that a Meeting of **Biggleswade Town Council** will take place on **Tuesday 22 January 2013**, at the offices of **Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade** commencing at 7.00pm in order to transact the undermentioned items of business.

Yours faithfully



R.D.McGregor
Town Clerk

Distribution: All Town Councillors
Notice Boards (2)
Central Bedfordshire Council
Bedfordshire Constabulary
The Editor, Biggleswade Chronicle
The Editor, Biggleswade Advertiser
County Library, Biggleswade

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a)** Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item
- (b)** Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item

Members may participate in and vote on matters before the Central Bedfordshire Council Development Control Committee on which they have already expressed a concluded view in their position as a Town Councillor so long as they declare their membership of the Town Council and the way they voted on the Town Council consideration of the application.

In addition, the decisions of the Town Council in respect of planning applications would not be binding on those members of the Council who hold office at the Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council Development Control Committee.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions that are pertaining to matters listed on this agenda.

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

For members to receive a report from Bedfordshire Police.

7 **INVITED SPEAKER**

There is no invited speaker.

8. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. For members to receive the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 January 2013 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. For members to **approve the recommendations** of the **Finance and General Purpose** meeting held on 8 January 2013 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Items as listed on the Finance and General Purpose agenda:

6) **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Budgets**

To consider budgets for 2013/2014.

Cllr D Lawrence had prepared the following proposal and this was handed out to all committee members:

1. We place the Precept Support Grant into a special reserve and call it down over a 3 year transition period at a rate of 20315 per annum.
2. We finance the 40630 deficit in the 2013/2014 budget from an increase in the precept of 7.5% on the 5538 Band D equivalent contributors
3. That during the next 3 years that we find additional savings from reduced expenditure of 20315 per annum
4. That if there are further Precept Support Grants from Government in future years that they are used in their entirety to reduce the then precept level

This proposition leaves all options that may be closed off to us if there is a precept freeze and no further Precept Support. It therefore represents sound management for Biggleswade Town.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that she is not comfortable with raising the precept by 7.5%.

Cllr Russell said that increasing the precept by 7.5% would bring BTC to the attention of Mr Pickles who would use us as an example of an inefficient Council and this could cause problems in the press and maybe local tv.

Cllr D Lawrence said he would welcome this.

Town Council is in the hands of CBC and government how the money is distributed.

Cllr Mrs M Russell proposed an increase of 1.5% and not to put aside the precept grant.

Cllr Russell said that there had been discussions on pink paper, that could not be discussed in a public meeting, but there are many things we can do for the Town with £80,000 re parking for instance. We need that money to improve the facilities in Biggleswade.

Cllr Mrs M Russell went on to say that there should be a small increase gradually over 3 years.

Cllr D Lawrence said that we are not capped this year, but may be next year.

Cllr B Briars agreed with Cllr Mrs M Russell's proposal saying that it makes sense, especially with our reserves.

Cllr D Lawrence's proposal was not seconded.

At 8.17pm Cllr D Lawrence resigned as Chair of the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

Cllr D Lawrence and Cllr Mrs J Lawrence both left the Chamber.

Cllr Mrs M Russell asked the Town Clerk to confirm that the committee were quorate.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting. The proposal put forward by Cllr Mrs M Russell for an increase of 1.5% was seconded.

A vote was taken and all the Committee voted in favour of this proposal, therefore it was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council implement a 1.5% increase.

9. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 January 2013

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/12/04498/FULL – Millenium House, 85 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**
Change of use of existing building with D1 (non-residential institution) to C3 (residential) use.
- b. **CB/12/03517/FULL – 22 Brunswick Close, Biggleswade**
Single storey front & rear extension
- c. **CB/13/00037/ADV – 36 High Street, Biggleswade**
Advertisement: 1 set of halo illuminated text to High Street elevation 1 set of non illuminated text to Victoria Place elevation 1 externally illuminated projected sign, 2 x internally illuminated menus, 1 x internally illuminated take away sign, 1 x internally illuminated roundel 2 x non illuminated awnings.
- d. **CB/13/00038/LB – 36 High Street, Biggleswade**
Listed Building: Installation of signage, 1 light line to existing clock, painting to shop front, 2 x awnings to front, 2 non illuminated vinyls to shopfront (part vinyl, part sign written)

11. ACCOUNTS

a. Financial Administration

For members to receive and adopt the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30 November 2012
ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30 November 2012

- b. For members to receive and adopt the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 December 2012
ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 December 2012

12. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. CBC draft proposals to introduce waiting restrictions in Biggleswade, Clifton, Henlow, Langford, Potton, Sandy and Shillington

CBC has allocated funding to introduce minor parking restrictions at various locations. These have mainly been requested by members of the public, local Councils and/or elected Members.

A copy of the draft document is attached to this agenda.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning application outcomes

A report detailing the outcome of recent planning applications is attached to this agenda.

b. Road Closure notifications

CBC has informed Town Council of the following road closures:

Teal Road, St Andrews St, Hitchin Street – 26 Jan for 7 days

London Road – 28 Jan for 5 nights

This is to allow resurfacing works to be carried out in safety.

c. Street Naming and Numbering – amendment to postal numbers at the former County Tyres and Exhausts, Ivel Bridge, Biggleswade

Correspondence has been received from CBC to inform Town Council that four of the above postal numbers have been amended to relate to different plot numbers. The addresses remain the same as 5 – 18 Riverside Court, Biggleswade.

A copy is attached to this agenda.

14. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

15. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

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.