



MINUTES OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2017 AT 7.00PM
AT BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD,
BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT: Cllr M Foster (Chair)
Cllr D Albone
Cllr P Biernis
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr G Fage
Cllr F Foster
Cllr J Medlock
Cllr M North
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr S Patel

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs M Russell

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item. – Item 7a Cllr J Medlock
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item.

3. 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, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

Tony Mills: Item 7a. Totally agree with the letter that has been sent. We have to do more for car parking spaces. Do we really need a car valeting in the middle of town? These premises could hold about 60 car parking spaces. We have to start thinking outside the box.

Cllr H Ramsay.: Some of the Councillors will be attending an informal meeting at CBC next week to discuss these issues.

The Chairman suggested that any interested parties such as traders and shopkeepers, meet up with the Chamber of Trade before then to discuss issues of concerns which could then be passed forward.

Mike Jarvis: Enhancement s such as Century House should have never been built. Buses on the market square have made it worse. It is urgent that there is parking on the market square on a Saturday. This is imperative. Retailers in the town are getting questions from their head office over the decline in business.

A lot of people from the villages come into town on a Saturday and cannot park. So, before those shops close for good we should address the car parking.

The market can all fit into the paved area. It is imperative that this happens quickly. There is a decline in trade and it is imperative that this is done quickly.

Martin Thomas: We have a CBC informal meeting next week to ascertain exactly that they are going to do regarding our requirements for the town. No-one is in any doubt; the Joint Committee has had full documentation of the problems that exist in Biggleswade which are very serious for the town. CBC has now commissioned the Mosaic Partnership. We would ask that a meeting be held with the town council together with all traders; shopkeepers etc. in order that CBC director's listen to us.

4. **INVITED SPEAKER**

There is no invited speaker.

5. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and approved the minutes of the Town Centre Management meeting held on 21 February 2017 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Centre Management meeting held on 21 February 2017.

Item 6a. Cllr M North: Is there an update on the parking enforcement issue?

Chairman: This is work in progress. Traffic Orders are being put forward. Once these are in place we will be able to enforce more effectively.

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Petition from Town Centre Retailers**

Members are asked to consider a petition received from Town Centre retailers regarding parking, public transport, Century House and the market. A copy of the petition is attached to this agenda.

Cllr J Medlock left the meeting for this discussion.

Chairman: Clearly there are strong views. There are a number of things on here that we are unable to deal with. We have agreed to have a meeting with Traders and Shopkeepers with our thoughts. Can we look at the full picture after the Joint Committee?

Cllr D Albone: Deeply unhappy about proposal to open up market square to vehicles. It is dangerous, restricts market too much, vehicles manoeuvring, dangerous for pedestrians, etc. Danger of conflict too great. Completely understand the issue of parking but it is a safety issue.

Cllr B Briars: We have always been against the opening up the market square but CBC doesn't recognise our parking problem. Opening the market square will not cure this, but will simply add to the safety problem.

Cllr D Strachan: Meeting with retailers and traders, market superintendent, council and officers from CBC would allow some of the issues to be raised and addressed. We could then look at solutions to these problems. We need to move this forward. Perhaps this can be dealt with informally at the meeting next week.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to defer this point until after the Joint Committee on 11 July, and the meeting with the traders and shopkeepers.

b. Festive Lighting – Pre-Season Infrastructure Inspection

Members are asked to consider the attached inspection and the recommendations within.

This Information was **NOTED**.

c. Biggleswade Town Centre De-Cluttering

Members are asked to consider initial proposals to carry out decluttering in the Town Centre. (attached proposals and Stage 1 & 2 safety audit).

Road Safety Audit (combined Stage 1 & 2) draft only flags up one issue which the principle highways officer intends to accept.

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Food Festival

Members were informed that Officers are currently investigating holding a food festival on the August bank holiday weekend.

This information was **NOTED**.

b. Street Light Audit

Members were informed that the Town Clerk has asked for an audit of all Town Council street lights, to obtain costs to upgrade to LED with the long-term view of asking CBC to adopt the lighting stock.

9. 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.

There were no questions.

10. 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.

There were no exempt items.