

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs WP Smith (Chair), Cllr Mrs ME Bracey, Cllr BV Briars, Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr DJ Lawrence, Cllr Mrs JG Lawrence, Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr PR Rook, Cllr Mrs MA Russell, Cllr RGC Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr MD Thomas, Cllr PF Vickers, Cllr GED Wilson, Cllr TP Woodward  
Mrs DA King - Town Clerk  
Laura Hutchinson - Biggleswade Chronicle  
Sgt Ted Bloodworth – Bedfordshire Police

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (23/06)**

Cllr PF Vickers registered an interest as a member of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda and a non-pecuniary interest in Items 8a and 8b listed on the agenda.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence registered an interest as a member of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

Cllr D Smith registered an interest as a member of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

Cllr Mrs W Smith registered a non-pecuniary interest in Items 8a and 8b listed on the agenda.

**3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (24/06)**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

**4. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS (25/06)**

The Mayor reported that completion had taken place on the Lodge and 1 Chestnut Avenue. She also reported that the Council's web site was now operational.

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY (26/06)**

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the arrival on Sgt Bloodworth.

**6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS (27/06)**

- a. Members received and adopted the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, London Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- d. Members received and adopted the Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Item 6 listed on the agenda was suspended for Sgt Bloodworth to make his report.

## **5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY (28/06)**

Sgt Bloodworth updated members on the CCTV cameras. He stated that initially he had some concerns from officers and councillors about the level of service due to the relocation to Peterborough. He had been working very closely with the management of Farsight to look at other functions to integrate with the police function.

A meeting had been held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June which identified 14 actions to improve performance which included:

- Direct line to CHC
- Camera position maps
- Central email address for viewing requests
- Evidence production/integrity protocols
- Incident log – controller to record all incidents
- Training
- Remote access via police network and historical data search
- Full survey of cameras re position/condition
- Improved customer care
- Commitment to review CCTV concept for future development

Sgt Bloodworth also updated members on the Radio Project as follows:

- Aerials and base stations installed
- Handsets to be tested prior to launch
- Anticipated launch in August/September for Christmas
- Joint management by Biggleswade and Sandy Chamber of Trade
- Crime prevention training

A question was asked regarding the camera which was due to be installed in Church Street. It was agreed Dave Rollings would be contacted regarding this.

The following concerns were communicated to Sgt Bloodworth:

- A public house had applied for an extension of hours as weekends till 2.00 am which was believe would cause more problems in the Town Centre at weekends and that his colleagues needed to make regular visits to these premises.
- The alcohol free zone was not being observed
- The sale of alcohol to under-age people

## **7. MATTERS ARISING (29/06)**

- a. Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006.  
There were no matters arising.

Cllr Vickers thanked the Clerk and the Mayor for the way in which this years Statutory meeting was organised.

- b. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006.  
There were no matters arising.

- c. Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006.  
There were no matters arising.

- d. Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006.  
There were no matters arising.

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (30/06)**

- a. **06/00573/FULL – Land on the South Side of, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade**  
Full: Change of use from agricultural to amenity land for the use of multi-use games area, play area and erection of fencing around site.

The Clerk reported that this application had been withdrawn, and was therefore not considered by the Town Council.

**b. 06/00869/FULL – The Vicarage, 3 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**

Full: Single storey front and rear extensions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by MBDC in their deliberations. In addition, the District Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**c. 06/00874/FULL – Land at The Vicarage, 3 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**

Full: Erection of detached dwelling with integral garage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application at the plot is very tight and close to the public footpath, with inadequate access to the property. The proposed dwelling will be next to the principal historical and listed building of the town and will also be detrimental to the street scene in a conservation area.

Cllr Mrs JG Lawrence was asked to ensure that Agenda Items 8c goes forward to the District Development Control Committee if recommended for approval.

**d. 06/00943/FULL – 106 Drove Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Two and single storey rear extensions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by MBDC in their deliberations. In addition, the District Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**e. 06/00965/FULL – 14 Edward Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Single storey side extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by MBDC in their deliberations. In addition, the District Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**f. 06/00980/FULL – 244 London Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Extension of garage. Replace all flat roofs with pitched roofs.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by MBDC in their deliberations. In addition, the District Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**g. 06/00989/FULL – 214 London Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Single storey side extension and rear extensions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by MBDC in their deliberations. In addition, the District Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**h. 06/01010/FULL – Biggleswade Health Centre, Saffron Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Alterations to existing car park to form additional parking bays.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.

**9. ACCOUNTS (31/06)**

**a. Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts for April:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

Members received and adopted the following accounts for May:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

**10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (32/06)**

**a. Biggleswade Town Centre Maintenance**

The Town Council considered correspondence from Mid Beds District Council regarding their review of the management and maintenance of Ampthill, Shefford, Sandy and Biggleswade town centres.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council had no objection in principle and that the Clerk and Mayor enter into discussions with the District Council and report back to Council.

**b. Town and Parish Council Highway Maintenance Partnership Scheme 2006/2007**

Members considered correspondence regarding the allocation of funds from the above scheme (previously circulated) and it was **RESOLVED** that the priority should be: 1. The Baulk - Footpaths and 2. Stonelands - Road surface and Footpaths.

**c. Bus Shelters**

Following the request from Bedfordshire County Council for the Town Council to provide a priority list of Bus Shelters,

It was **RESOLVED** that members provide a written list of locations to the Clerk within the next 7 days.

**d. Biggleswade Twinning Association**

The Town Council considered correspondence from Biggleswade Twinning Association regarding the damaged Twinning sign. The Clerk reported that the old sign could not be repaired and a new one would cost between £600-£700.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would replace the sign.

**e. Biggleswade Sports Meeting**

The Town Council considered correspondence from Biggleswade Sports Meeting enquiring if the Town Council would consider making a donation to the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Meeting for their Prize Fund, expenses and insurance costs.

It was **RESOLVED** that as Council had dealt with grants earlier in the year, no contribution would be made and the letter be referred to the Community Liaison Forum.

**11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (33/06)**

**a. Planning Decisions**

It was **RESOLVED** that items i. - iv. Listed on the agenda be noted.

**b. Report on Progress of Outstanding Matters**

- i. Bonds Lane - Nothing to report
- ii. Eagle Farm Road Development - The Clerk reported that all the remedial work had now been done on the changing rooms. There was still some graffiti to be removed from the tiling and externally some drains had been smashed. The clearing out of the drainage will commence next week. Wimpey have now signed the engrossment.
- iii. Saxon Gate Community Centre – Nothing to report

**c. Lawrence Road and Shuttleworth Court – Lawrence Road Neighbourhood Watch Group**

At the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006, members discussed the correspondence and petition received from the Lawrence Road Neighbourhood Watch Group regarding anti-social behaviour in the area.

It was **RESOLVED** that this correspondence from Aragon Housing Association regarding the matter be noted.

**d. Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984  
Proposed Toucan Crossing – London Road, Biggleswade**

At the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006, members considered correspondence from Bedfordshire County Council, enclosing a copy of a Notice as to the intention of the County Council to establish the above toucan crossing.

The Town Council considered correspondence from the Highways Department in response to our comments.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would maintain its position in relation to the objection made.

**e. Land East of Biggleswade – A1 South Junction**

At the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006, members considered correspondence from Mid Beds District Council regarding the above.

The Town Council considered correspondence from both Mid Beds District Council and Bedfordshire County Council in response to our comments.

It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be written to the Highways Agency outlining our comments and objection made at the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**f. Environment Agency – Managing Flood Risk in the Ivel Catchment**

The Town Council considered correspondence from the Environment Agency regarding an Open Evening to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006 on “Managing Flood Risk in the Ivel Catchment”, inviting a representative from the Town Council to attend.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk remind members of this event nearer the date.

**12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (34/06)**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.