

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT
THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs WP Smith (Chair), 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 GED Wilson
Mrs DA King - Town Clerk
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police
Laura Hutchison - Biggleswade Chronicle

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs ME Bracey, PF Vickers and TP Woodward.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (62/06)

Cllrs D Smith and Mrs JG Lawrence registered an interest as members of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (63/06)

The Mayor reported that a letter had been received from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution thanking them for the use of the Market Square which enabled them to raise £549.02 which will go towards supporting the Volunteer Lifeboat crews to save lives at sea.

She also reported that she had authorised additional expenditure of £1000 for the repairs to the roof. It had been discovered after the roof had been stripped it was not a flat bed roof but a tapered roof resulting in the insulation to be cut to suit the falls and bring up the U Value Standard.

It was reported that a quotation had been obtained for curtains for the Chamber which included linings, tracks and fitting etc. in the sum of £850.98. It was agreed that we go ahead with this.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (64/06)

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY (65/06)

PC Ian Wilson apologised that there were no crime figures available. There was a large amount of criminal damage in the last month with 12 cars damaged in one night, but there was no specific area.

A new project had been introduced to tackle vehicle crime, mainly in public car parks such as Sainsbury's. If a car is spotted that has left valuables on show, the owner will try to be contacted via the store tannoy system.

In response to a question PC Wilson stated that the incident at The Black Bear was still under investigation.

The Clerk reported that fortnightly meetings had been set up with Ian to discuss any concerns and Members were asked to let her know if they wished to raise any issues which could then be discussed.

6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS (66/06)

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, London Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Discussed under Confidential Business.
 - i. Discussed under Confidential Business.

7. **MATTERS ARISING (67/06)**

a. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August 2006

There were no matters arising.

b. Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2006

Discussed under Confidential Business.

c. Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on Monday 18th September 2006

Discussed under Confidential Business.

8. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS (68/06)**

a. **06/01301/FULL – Fairfield Recreation Ground, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Installation of additional play equipment.

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

b. **06/01305/FULL – 8 Wilsheres Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Two storey front/side/rear 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.

c. **06/01396/FULL – 6 Playfield Close, Biggleswade**

Full: Single storey front extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application on the basis that it would have a detrimental impact on the street scene.

d. **06/01432/LDCP – Harrison House, Sheep Walk, Langford Road, Biggleswade**

Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed): Tractor store.

It was **RESOLVED** that no comments be made.

e. **06/01441/FULL – 167 Mead End, Biggleswade**

Full: Two storey rear 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. **06/01446/CAC – The Black Bear, 10 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade**

Conservation Area Consent: Total demolition of fire-damaged building.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application, but any new development on the site should be in keeping with existing surroundings and retention of the façade.

g. **06/01489/FULL – 87 London Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Single storey front extension. Part single, part two storey rear extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to the rear extension, but have reservations with regards to the front extension due to the detrimental impact on the street scene.

h. 06/01398/FULL – 35 Drove Road, Biggleswade

Full: Dropped kerb.

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

9. ACCOUNTS (69/06)

a. Financial Administration

Members received and adopted the following accounts for August:

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

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (70/06)

a. Biggleswade United Football Club

The Town Council considered correspondence from Biggleswade United FC requesting the Town Council's permission for a small area of the former FC pitch to be marked out for two mini-soccer pitches, for use by their Under 9s and Under 10s teams and correspondence from the Cricket Club in relation to this matter.

It was **RESOLVED** that Biggleswade United FC would not be given permission to use an area of the former FC pitch to be market out for two mini-soccer pitches.

Cllrs BV Briars and PR Rook recorded their objections to this resolution.

With regards to the Cricket Club's request to install practice nets, the Mayor reported that we had been trying since June to arrange a meeting with them to discuss this matter and it is hoped there will be a meeting in the very near future.

b. Use of Town Council Chamber

Members discussed the use of the Town Council Chamber by outside bodies.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred until the next Town Council meeting, when further advice is obtained in regard to insurance, health & safety implications, etc and further consideration to staff and visitor access, etc.

Members were asked to put forward to the Clerk as soon as possible any observations they would wish to make on this matter, in order for the Clerk to make a full and comprehensive report to members.

c. Letchworth Morris Men Dance Group

The Town Council considered correspondence from Letchworth Morris Men Dance Group requesting permission to perform twice in the Market Square on Saturday 28th October 2006.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be approved.

d. SKY Promotion

The Town Council considered correspondence from Bo-Concepts, a Promotions Agency representing Sky TV, who is requesting permission to site a Zafira car plus a gazebo in the town centre for 1 week, from Monday to Saturday. They state that no money will be changing hands, only customers subscribing to the service.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be refused.

11. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (71/06)**

a. **Planning Decisions**

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

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

i. **Bonds Lane**

Nothing to report.

ii. **Eagle Farm Road Development**

It was reported that pitches are now in use and in answer to a question, the Clerk stated that the fencing would be erected once planning permission had been obtained.

iii. **Saxon Gate Community Centre**

Nothing to report.

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

The Town Council considered correspondence from The Highways Agency, in response to our letter of 25th August 2006 regarding the above.

It was **RESOLVED** that an invitation is made to Simon Amor, Route Performance Manager, of the Highways Agency to attend a Town Council meeting to discuss this issue in more detail with members.

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

The Town Council considered correspondence from Bedfordshire County Council, in response to our letter of 22nd May 2006 regarding the above.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted.

e. **Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Development Framework**

The Town Council considered correspondence from Bedfordshire County Council, updating us on the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted.

11. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (72/06)**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

12. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (73/06)**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

a. **Drove Road Depot**