

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs WP Smith (Chair), Cllr Mrs M Bracey, Cllr BV Briars, Cllr DJ Lawrence, Cllr Mrs JG Lawrence, 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  
Brian Mitchell - Trading Standards Service  
Nigel Conroy – Trading Standards Enforcement Officer  
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police  
Laura Hutchison - Biggleswade Chronicle

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H Ramsay

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (75/06)**

Cllrs PF Vickers, 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. Cllrs Mrs ME Bracey, RGC Skinner and PF Vickers registered a non-pecuniary interest in item 11b listed on the agenda.

Cllr PR Rook registered a non-pecuniary interest in item 9m listed on the agenda.

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (76/06)**

The Mayor reported that an incident had occurred at the Bowls Club involving a very aggressive dog which the Dog Warden had been unable to catch because it had been considered dangerous. The Police were asked for assistance but none was forthcoming which resulted in Town Council staff and the Dog Warden putting themselves at risk in catching the animal. Rob McGregor and Ryan Chambers are to be commended for the assistance they gave to the Dog Warden in enabling the dog to be brought under control and transported to holding kennels.

It was reported that the Transport Study Consultation for Councillors would be between 6.00pm and 8.00pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October and not 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm as originally stated.

**4. INVITED SPEAKER (77/06)**

Brian Mitchell of the Trading Standards Service gave a presentation to Members on the effectiveness of "No Cold Calling Zones" and asked if the Town Council would support the introduction of a Zone in Biggleswade.

"No Cold Calling Zones" are being introduced in Bedfordshire as part of the work carried out by the Multi-Agency Bogus Caller Task Force, the purpose of which is to reduce the number of bogus callers (distraction burglars and rogue traders) operating in the area. Research shows that many people who become victims of bogus callers will often be targeted again. People who commit doorstep crime often target the elderly and vulnerable and can sometimes be intimidating. The aim of the scheme is to discourage such people from targeting the area.

Each NCCZ location is highlighted with large triangular signs fitted to lamp posts which show the Bogus Caller Hotline number. Each household in the Zone will receive a free pack containing 'We're not buying it' window sticker and other relevant information connected to the No Cold Calling Scheme. If someone starts cold calling in the zone residents are asked to contact the hotline number immediately. Bedfordshire County Council Trading Standards will have direct access to the Police control room to request police support in appropriate circumstances.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council endorse the introduction of a "No Cold Calling Zone" in Biggleswade.

**5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (78/06)**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

**6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY (79/06)**

PC Ian Wilson reported that page 1 of the statistics circulated showed a substantial increase in Biggleswade in Criminal Damage and Theft from motor vehicles. However, in October these figures have halved due to an operation set up involving more Police Officers on the beat late at night and in particular the Fairfield Estate.

Alistair Burt MP went out on patrol with the police on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and spoke to the young people in the town and will be scheduling another visit late at night.

Extra police and Special Constables will be on duty for Halloween/Fireworks Events and will be visiting shops to make them aware of the problems caused by such things as egg-throwing etc.

Inspector John Maries will be at the next Town Council meeting to talk to members on funding of PCSOs. There are currently two PCSOs who cover Biggleswade and the surrounding area, one of whom will be leaving in the near future.

The Black Bear - investigation still ongoing.

**7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS (80/06)**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 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 Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- d. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Off Street Car Parking Committee held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

**8. MATTERS ARISING (81/06)**

- a. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006.  
There were no matters arising
- b. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.  
There were no matters arising
- c. Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.  
There were no matters arising
- d. Minutes of the Off Street Car Parking Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.  
There were no matters arising

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (82/06)**

- a. **06/01427/FULL – 25 High Street, Biggleswade**  
Full: Change of use to A2

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application and that the premises are retained as standard retail.

- b. **06/01578/FULL – 2 New Spring Cottages, London Road, Biggleswade**  
Full: Retention of decking and pergola (retrospective).

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

**c. 06/01538/ADV – 79 High Street, Biggleswade**

Advertisement Consent: Erection of display unit and signage to external wall.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to the display unit provided it is not illuminated but **OBJECT** to the signage to the external wall as this is in a Conservation area.

**d. 06/06/01596/FULL – Land Adjacent to 59 London Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Erection of block of 6 no. 1 bed flats.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection in principal to the development of this site providing it is not out of character with the surrounding area, but there are grave concerns in respect of access due to the number of developments taking place in this area adding to the difficulties already experienced at the T Junction nearby.

It was agreed that a District Councillor would "call in" this application.

**e. 06/01620/FULL – Land at 42 The Baulk, Biggleswade**

Full: Erection of 15 apartments.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY OBJECT** to this application as it is an over-development, out of character with the surrounding area, inadequate parking provision within the cartilage of the site and poor access and entry into an already very busy road.

It was agreed that a District Councillor would "call in" this application.

**f. 06/01646/FULL – Land Adjacent to 1 Holme Crescent, Biggleswade**

Full: Erection of 1 pair of semi-detached houses and detached garage for occupants of 48-50 Saffron Road.

It was **RESOLVED** that a **HOLDING OBJECTION** be placed on this application until further clarification regarding access to the garages is received.

**g. 06/01683/FULL – 45 High Street, Biggleswade**

Full: Retention of 10 no. external condenser units.

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

**h. 06/01695/FULL – 44 Boddington Gardens, Biggleswade**

Full: 1 no. dormer to rear and replacement of flat roof to garage with pitched roof.

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

**i. 06/01697/FULL – Land at 33 Stoneland Avenue, Biggleswade**

Full: Erection of detached chalet bungalow.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council place a **HOLDING OBJECTION** on this application until a site plan is received showing the location and site access of this application.

**j. 06/01713/FULL – 19 Empire Close, Biggleswade**

Full: Single storey side/front extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as it will have a detrimental impact on the street scene as the houses are very close together in this area.

**k. 06/01714/LB – 79 High Street, Biggleswade**

Listed Building Consent: Erection of display unit and signage to external wall.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to the erection of display unit but **OBJECT** to the signage to the external wall in this Conservation area.

- I. 06/01715/FULL – 58, 58A-58B High Street, Biggleswade**  
Full: Change of use of part of ground and first floor A1 (Retail) to A3 (Delicatessen and Bistro) use.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.
- m. 06/01725/ADV – 9 to 10 Market House, Market Square, Biggleswade**  
Advertisement Consent: Aluminium replacement fascia with illuminated sign to centre and illuminated projected sign to left hand side of fascia panel.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to the illuminated signs in this Conservation area.
- 10. ACCOUNTS (83/06)**
- a. Financial Administration**
- Members received and adopted the following accounts for September:
- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.
  - ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
  - iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.
- 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (84/06)**
- a. Request by MBDC to Redeploy Space within the Citizone Area**
- Members considered the request to:
- i. Install air conditioning the Call Centre, and
  - ii. Extend the Call Centre Area by removing the existing wall between the Call Centre and Waiting Area.
- It was **RESOLVED** that approval be given to install air conditioning but no structural alterations would be allowed by removing the wall between the Call Centre and Waiting Area.
- b. Skate Park**
- Following a meeting held earlier in the year to discuss the future of the Skate Park with the District Council and Skate Park Trustees, with effect from April 2007. The Three Style Association is no longer able to continue running the facility and are asking that the District Council or Town Council take over the running.
- It was felt that the Skate Park facility should be part of the Saxon Gate complex under the auspices of the District Council and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would contribute 50% of the cost to running the facility up to a maximum of £15,000.
- c. Use of Town Council Chamber**
- (Deferred from September Town Council Meeting)
- Members put forward their views regarding the practicality of hiring out the Chamber and after further discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that if there is to be any usage it will be at the Clerk's discretion depending upon its availability and it will be free to Charitable/Community groups up to 12 times per year.
- Cllr BV Briars recorded his objection to this resolution. Cllr PR Rook recorded his abstention from the vote.
- d. Biggleswade Sports Meeting**
- Members considered the request for the Annual Sports Meeting to be held at Fairfield on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2007.
- It was **RESOLVED** that this request be granted subject to the Cricket Club's agreement.

e. **Land at the bottom end of the front garden in Poppy Field**

Members considered correspondence from a resident in Poppy Field regarding a small piece of Town Council land they wish to blend in with their garden.

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

f. **Royal Lifeboat Institution**

The Town Council considered correspondence from the RNLI requesting permission to have a Lifeboat and trailer on the Market Square on their Flag Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be granted but that the Clerk would get further information in relation to size and space required.

g. **BigglesFM**

BigglesFM will be returning to the airwaves this Christmas from the 27<sup>th</sup> November up to Christmas Eve and the Town Council have been asked if they would make a donation, as in previous years, to help with the broadcast licence and performing rights fees (£4500). A jingle will be played to acknowledge the support incorporating a Christmas message from the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would make a donation of £200.

12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (85/06)**

a. **Planning Decisions**

It was **RESOLVED** that items i. – x listed on the agenda be noted.

It was reported that item iv. was incorrectly stated and should read 'Refusal'

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

i. Bonds Lane – Nothing to report

iii. Saxon Gate Community Centre – Nothing to report

c. **Refuse Collection**

The Town Council considered correspondence from a resident of Dells Lane, regarding the fortnightly refuse collection and enclosing copies of letters from Mid Beds District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that a reply be sent stating that there is no health risk whatsoever but that a pilot scheme is being introduced in the summer months for a weekly collection of domestic food waste.

13. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (86/06)**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

14. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (87/06)**

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. **Market Square**