

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 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 Mrs 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
Mrs DA King - Town Clerk

Insp J Maries – Bedfordshire Police
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police
Laura Hutchison - Biggleswade Chronicle

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that there was to be a Strategic Health Authority presentation on the future of Bedford Hospital on 5th December at 6.30 at Mid Beds District Council, Chicksands. Members were asked to let the Clerk know if they would be attending.

Christmas Holiday Arrangements - As the District Council would not be open on Wednesday 27th December, the staff had asked for this day to be taken as holiday, which was agreed.

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Wilson reported that crime figures were considerably down on the previous month. There were two noticeable items to report - the discovery of a Cannabis Factory and the seizure of a vehicle which had been driven in an anti-social manner. This was the first seizure in Biggleswade under the new police powers.

Inspector Maries was present at the meeting to talk to members about PCSOs. The police are now starting to see some of the benefits since the introduction of these officers and felt that they are the way forward.

Sandy Town Council purchased 2 officers five months ago and they are proving to be very successful. They are amazed by the impact they have had in Sandy and Inspector Maries felt that Biggleswade would benefit from having 2 PCSOs at a cost of £6000 each per year.

In response to questions from members it was stated that their main function was the eyes and ears for the police gathering intelligence. They are all trained to a national standard and have a lot of skills similar to a Police Officer. Their hours of work are 37 per week but change shifts according to what is required.

It was agreed that Sgt Bloodworth would be asked to supply the Clerk with a sample Contract and this item would be carried forward to the Precept meeting in January.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th October 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 Special Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 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 14th November 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 Tuesday 14th November 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- e. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 14th November 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- f. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 14th November 2006 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. MATTERS ARISING

- a. **Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday 24th October 2006**
There were no matters arising.
- b. **Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2006**
There were no matters arising.
- c. **Minutes of the Off Street Car Parking Committee held on Tuesday 14th November 2006.**
There were no matters arising.
- d. **Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2006**
There were no matters arising.
- e. **Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2006**
There were no matters arising.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **06/01803/FULL – 18 Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade.**
Full: Single 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.

- b. **06/01806/FULL – 19 Derwent Avenue, Biggleswade.**
Full: Two 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.

- c. **06/01861/FULL - Land to the Rear of 47, London Road, Biggleswade.**
Full: Erection of 1 no. 4 bed detached dwelling with detached garage (revised scheme to that previously approved under Ref 05/00296/FULL dated 13/5/05)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application subject to adequate access and that in view of adjacent development in the area, this is taken into consideration.

d. 06/01872/FULL - 65 Brunel Drive, Biggleswade.

Full: Part single/part two storey rear extension. Two 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.

e. 06/01891/OUT – Land At London Road Retail Park, London Road, Biggleswade.

Outline: Erection of building for retail use (A1 matters reserved except access).

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

f. 06/01427/FULL - 25 High Street, Biggleswade.

Full: Change of use from A1(retail) use to A2(financial and professional services) use.
Amended Ordnance Survey, Plan and letter.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as it would be a loss of a prime retail unit.

g. 06/01887/FULL - 122a Drove Road, Biggleswade.

Full: Part two storey, part single storey side extension to replace existing garage. Alteration to existing porch.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application due to its size, design and siting would give rise to an overdevelopment of the site and out of character with the surrounding area. Additionally it would appear that this is a further extension to that approved (05/01802/Full of 29thDecember) to bring it into line with the following applications that were refused: 04/02191/Full of 4 February 2005 and 05/00786/Full of 22 July 2005.

h. 06/01583/ADV - 79 High Street, Biggleswade.

Advertisement Consent: Erection of display unit and signage to external wall.
Amended revised signage & design of display unit.

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

i. 06/0171/LB - 79 High Street, Biggleswade.

Listed Building Consent: Erection of display unit & signage to external wall.
Amended revised signage & revised design of unit.

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

10. ACCOUNTS

a. Financial Administration

Members received and adopted the following accounts for October:

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

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Request by MBDC to Redeploy Space within the Citizone Area**

Members considered the request by MBDC for permission to erect a screen and door in the waiting area matching the office opposite.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this request subject to the area being returned to its original condition at the end of the lease and that there is no removal of the door leading into the Call Centre.

b. **Town and Parish Council Highway Maintenance Partnership Scheme 2007/2008**

Members considered what works they would like to be carried out from the budget allocated from the above scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** that the allocation should be spent on the following:

The Baulk - Footpaths
Stonelands Avenue - Road and Footpaths
More dropped kerbs for wheelchair users.

c. **Biggleswade Transport Study 2006 - Consultation**

Members considered BCC's request to provide specific views on the six proposals contained in the consultation leaflet.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following views be put forward:

Proposal 1

The Town Council wish to retain the current managed parking system but do not agree with a structured charging system. They agree to the introduction of Resident Parking Permits in Saffron Road.

Proposal 2

The Town Council wish to defer opinion on this until details are received on the proposed redevelopment of the Bonds Lane area and all road options including Saffron Road should be looked at in relation to this.

Proposal 3

The Town Council agree.

Proposal 4

- a. The Town Council agree in principle
- b. The Town Council agree in principle but wish to be consulted on the positioning.

Proposal 5

The Town Council believe that they do not have an option but would only wish to see a temporary solution to this problem. The bridge should have a weight restriction and made structurally safe.

Further Comments:

All four railway bridges in Biggleswade should be made safe and included in the 10 year forward plan. A one-way traffic flow should be considered in St Johns Street and Sun Street. Additionally, the junction at Drove Road/Potton road should have a roundabout to cope with the increased traffic resulting from the East of Biggleswade development.

Proposal 6

The Town Council think that of the 3 options, the mini roundabout is the better solution. However, a one-way traffic system should be introduced at the Baulk/Drove Road into London Road which would alleviate some of the problems associated with this junction.

Further Comments:

The other junctions in the areas that should be considered are :
Dells Lane into Back Street as since the introduction of the traffic lights, Back Street is being used as a "rat run"

ADDITIONALCOMMENTS

The Town Council have highlighted many times the need to consider one-way systems for the Baulk/Drove Road/London Road and St Johns Street/Sun Street.

A roundabout should be introduced at the Shortmead Street/Sun Street junction. This has been discussed on many occasions in the past and the Town Council feel this is an urgent requirement. Eagle Farm Road/London Road junction - consideration should be given to this junction, especially if a one-way traffic system was introduced, and particularly with the East of Biggleswade development coming on stream.

It would be helpful if the Road Planners liaise with those Planners in the Highways Division that look at access problems for planning.

d. Cricket Club Practice Nets

Members considered the request of the Cricket Club to erect practice nets in the corner of the ground nearest the Dan Albone Car Park, the cost and work associated with this will be funded by the Cricket Club.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agree to this request.

e. Rainbow Pre-School & Toddlers - Fairfield

Members considered the request for an additional container to be sited next to the current containers and the pathway on the field next to the Football Club.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred until further information is received in respect of planning permission.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning Decisions

It was **RESOLVED** that items i.- vii listed on the agenda be noted

b. Report on Progress of Outstanding Matters

- i. Bonds Lane - Nothing to report
- ii. Saxon Gate Community Centre - Nothing to report

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

14. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

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.

