

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs WP Smith (Chair), 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  
Mr R McGregor - Works Manager  
PC I Wilson, Sgt T Bloodworth, PCSO Stewart Robertson - Biggleswade Police  
Miss L Hutchinson - Biggleswade Chronicle

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr T Woodward

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**a) Prejudicial Interests**

There were no prejudicial interests

**b) Personal 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.

Cllr M Thomas declared an interest in Item 11 d listed on the agenda

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded members of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at MBDC Chicksands regarding Unitary Government in Bedfordshire.

**4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

PC Wilson stated that there had been a spate of burglaries recently in the Dells Lane area targeting the elderly. There had also been incidents of graffiti around the Town and the police are actively investigating the problem and speaking to as many people as possible. There are still some problems with nuisance vehicle drivers and a motorbike had been seized at the Lakes.

Members were informed about the new penalties of using mobile phones whilst driving and this is an area which is actively being policed.

A question was raised about the large assembly of youths in the Town Centre recently. PC Wilson stated that they had moved on several youths and arrested someone for taking cannabis. He was asked about the policy on Raves and stated that they try to police this problem before it starts. Regarding the recent one in Biggleswade, it was broken up once it had been reported.

PC Wilson was asked that there be more enforcement in the alcohol free zone.

**6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Precept Committee held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Council Committee held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007 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 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Precept Committee held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007.  
There were no matters arising
- b. Minutes of the Council Committee held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007.  
Page 5 Item 14a -It was agreed that information on the minutes be recorded in future to show Contractor and amount of quotation.
- c. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007.  
There were no matters arising
- d. Minutes of the Off Street Car Parking Committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007.  
There were no matters arising

## 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **07/00159/FULL – 101 London Road, Biggleswade.**  
Full: Single storey rear extension to replace existing garage.

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. **07/00115/FULL – 128 Mead End, Biggleswade.**  
Full: Single storey front 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. **07/00190/FULL – 85 Drove Road, 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.

- d. **07/00184/FULL – 12 Dells Lane, Biggleswade.**  
Full: Single storey front extension to house & garage. Replace existing flat roof with pitched.

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. **07/00236/FULL – 106 London Road, Biggleswade.**  
Full: Raise flat roof and parapet walls to rear.

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

## 9. ACCOUNTS

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007

- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007

**10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**a) Police Community Support Officers**

A discussion took place with Sgt Bloodworth regarding the funding of 2 PCSO's for Biggleswade and concern was expressed if this would have an affect on police presence. Sgt Bloodworth confirmed that there would be no reduction in the numbers of Police; the establishment having already been set.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would approve the funding for 2 PCSO's for a period of one year subject to minor contract amendments (termination notice and clarification of Public Liability Insurance).

**b) Off Street Car Parking Committee's Recommendation**

Members discussed the recommendation for Council to formally approach the District Council as outlined suggested letter attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to the District Council as set out omitting the words "shopping centre".

**c) Biggleswade Sports - Request to use Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground for Track Running & Training**

Members considered the request for the use of the Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground for track running and training.

It was **RESOLVED** that use of this area for a track and training would create too many additional problems due to the length of the football season and the inability to maintain and renovate the high wear areas on the pitches and that the Athletic Club should remain at Fairfield.

**d) MBDC POPS - Erection of Screen and Door in Waiting Area**

It was **RESOLVED** that the drawing prepared by Levitts in respect of the above be approved.

**e) Biggleswade & District Scout Association**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Biggleswade and District Scout Association be granted permission to hold their parade and Services in the Market Square on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.

**f) Fencing & Multi Games Unit - Eagle Farm Road**

Since several months had elapsed since approving the quotations for fencing and the MUGA and the planning application being approved there had been increase in prices.

It was **RESOLVED** that the extra costs for fencing of £2321.92 and the MUGA and Base of £3849.25 be approved.

**g) White Hart Car Park**

It was **RESOLVED** that the request from the 201 (Bedford) Transport Squadron of the TA to use the White Hart Car Park on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007, for a display unit be approved.

**h) Flag Pole**

Members discussed the purchase of a Flag Pole to be erected at the Town Hall. It was agreed that the height of the building be established to ascertain the type of Flag Pole required with costs and information be provided in connection with the official dates the Flag will be flown.

Cllrs Mrs R Kerfoot recorded her objection to the proposed purchase.

i. **Change of Dates - Annual Statutory Meeting & Town Assembly**

Due to the local elections taking place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the time element involved for Declarations of Acceptance of Office and issue of the Agenda, it was **RESOLVED** that dates for the Annual Statutory Meeting and the Town Assembly be changed to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May respectively.

Cllr Mrs Russell recorded her objection to the date of 29<sup>th</sup> May.

11. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning Decisions**

It was **RESOLVED** that items i. - xii. 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.

c. **Diversion Order: Biggleswade Part of Footpath/Bridleway No 40 and Langford Part of Bridleway No 9**

It was **RESOLVED** that copy of the above order be noted.

d. **Petition - Retailers in Hitchin Street**

Members discussed the copy of the Petition sent to the District Council from the Business Retailers in Hitchin Street.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support the petition from the Retailers and that County, District and the Police be urged to use such measures to get the stoppage (paths and road) in Hitchin Street removed as soon as possible.

12. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

