

MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2017
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone (Chair)
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M North
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay
Cllr Mrs M Russell
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr S Watkins

Mr R McGregor - Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mrs J Durn – Meetings Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council

Members of Public – 3 (including 2 Council staff)

A28/0201 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Biernis, Cllr J Medlock, Cllr T Woodward, Cllr F Foster

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

A28/0202 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

A0202.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item - None

A0202.2 b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item – None

A28/0203 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have been informed that Wards fruit and vegetable stall – a staple on our market for 100 years, and a family business for 100 years – will be trading for the last time on 25 March 2017 as the family are retiring.

Biggleswade Town Council would like to acknowledge this record and send our thanks for this valued contribution, and good wishes to the Ward family for an enjoyable and much earned retirement.

An informal meeting of the Biggleswade Joint Management Meeting (BJC) was held at 11am on 7 March at Central Bedfordshire offices. Six BTC Councillors attended, together with the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. CBC Officers, Marcel Coffait and Jason Longhurst invited an exchange of views surrounding the proposed regeneration plans for Biggleswade. Councillors found the plans to be totally unacceptable, and felt that CBC are simply consolidating their assets rather than doing what is best for Biggleswade. The CBC Officers were not expecting to receive unfavourable comments, and in light of these have agreed to take these points on board and review the situation.

The transfer documentation for the Orchard Community Centre has now been signed off (Signed for by the Mayor on 14 March 2017). Completion will take place within the next 14 days. This is an excellent facility and we look forward to having it up and running as soon as possible.

On Thursday 2 March, The Deputy Mayor, Cllr M North, attended the unveiling of the new Ivel Sprinter.

On Saturday 11 March, the Mayor attended the "2065 (Biggleswade) Squadron ATC – 74th Anniversary Dinner", and was honoured to present some of the trophies.

The Civic Service took place on Sunday 12 March. The Mayor thanked all Town Council staff for their hard work in putting together this successful event. Special thanks also to Steve Anderson, Baptist Church Minister, and the Edward Peake Choir for their uplifting performance.

The Mayor attended a Service Remembrance at All Saints Church, Southill to commemorate the 260th Anniversary of the death of Admiral the honourable John Byng, Admiral of the Blue, who lies buried in the family vault at the church.

A28/0204 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

There were no questions.

A28/0205 5. INVITED SPEAKERS

There were no Speakers

A28/0206 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

- A0206.1 a. Cllr B Briars asked that the timing of the traffic lights in Rose Lane be checked. These seem to be set differently on a Saturday morning, only letting three or four cars through at one time.

The Town Clerk will look into this.

A28/0207 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- A0207.1 a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 28 February 2017.

A28/0208 8. MATTERS ARISING

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28 February 2017:

- A0208.1 a. Page 2: Item: traffic parked on grass verges. The Town Clerk reported that contrary to previous information supplied by CBC, By-Laws have been passed and can be implemented and enforced providing enough people contact CBC to register a complaint. Members would like to start this process and will be contacting CBC in order to do so.

A28/0209 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- A0209.1 a. **CB/17/00664/FULL – 138 Mead End, Biggleswade**
Replacement of a single storey garage and outbuildings to the rear of the property with a new single storey rear extension to the semi-detached house.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, provided that the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A0209.2 b. **CB/17/00530/FULL - 100 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**
Replacement of 6 existing windows with white UPVC windows. Overclad external area of 3 dormer windows with white UPVC

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light, privacy of adjacent residents and subject to the views of the conservation officer on Overclad external area of 3 dormer windows with white UPVC.

- c. **CB/17/00698/RM – 5 and 6 Land East of Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade**

Reserved Matters: following CB/16/04542/VOC for development of new B1, B2 & B8 Use Class facilities including warehouse, mechanical workshop, reception, logistic centre and associated hard-standing yard, eternal circulation, car & bicycle parking and enclosing boundary treatment; consent is sought for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

A0209.3 d. **CB/17/00904/FULL – 36 Courtlands Drive, Biggleswade**
Single storey rear extension, 2-storey side extension and garage conversion with replacement roof.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A0209.4 e. **CB/17/00983/FULL – 102 Drove Road, Biggleswade**
Single-storey rear extension and replacement chimney to existing house.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents..

A0209.5 f. **CB/17/00843/FULL – 3 Frankel Way, Biggleswade**
Loft conversion with rear dormer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A0209.6 g. **CB/16/04658/FULL – Land North of Potton Road, Biggleswade**
Erection of 227 dwellings including access, landscaping and public open space.

*It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this Application on the following grounds:*

- *Loss of Prime Agricultural Land*
- *Outside the development envelope*
- *Lack of Infrastructure*
- *Roads unsuitable to sustain increase in traffic created by proposed development.*
- *Community Facilities inadequate, doctors Schools etc.*
- *Feasibility Study needs to be carried out on proposed Northern Bypass before any development proposals come forward.*
- *Application premature as no Local Plan in place.*

A28/0210 10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A0210.1 a. **Arrangements for furnishing of the Orchard Community Hall**

Cllr M North, Chair of the Finance & General Purpose Committee (F&GP) confirmed that 106 Funding is available for furnishing the Orchard Community Hall, and has been approved for this purpose by the F&GP.

It was **RESOLVED** that officers apply for the funds and furnishings be purchased without delay or reference back to Town Council. Officers can raise any matters with the Land East Community Facility Group.

A0210.2 b. **Bonds Lane Development**

Following considerable discussion Members voiced grave concerns. This will be the death of the town and Members are extremely unhappy with plans for 57 flats with only 14 parking spaces, two of which are disabled bays for one disabled flat.

BTC would like to put forward strong pre-planning objections, together with the suggestion of a compulsory purchase order by CBC, with BTC involvement.

It was **RESOLVED** that a strong **OBJECTION** be put forward immediately.

Members would also like to receive information on the proposed development of the Mantles site and Saxon Drive and requested that this also be on the next Agenda.

A28/0211 11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A0211.1 a. **Co-Option of Town Councillors**

The Town Clerk took Members through the formal procedure required to nominate and elect candidates.

A0211.2 b. **Roadworks Bulletin – Biggleswade**

This information was **NOTED**.

A28/0212 12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

There were no questions.

13. **EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution was moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issues were discussed.

14a. Contracts – Invitation to Tender for Banking Service

14b. Additional item – Minutes to be taken by the Chair

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council resolved to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.