



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 20 JUNE 2017 AT 7.00PM
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone (Vice Chair)
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars (Chair)
Cllr G Fage
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M North
Cllr S Patel
Cllr D Strachan

Mr R McGregor, BTC Town Clerk
Mrs J Durn, BTC Meetings Administrator

No Members of the Public were present

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr P Biernis, Cllr M Foster, Cllr J Medlock, Cllr Mrs H Ramsay

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None

3. 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.

No Members of the public were present.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 21 March 2017.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a. From the Minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 21 March 2017.

There were no Matters Arising.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Gates and Fence at Watkin Walk Play Area

Members considered quotations (attached to this Agenda), for works to Watkin Walk Play Area to improve safety for children using the play area. The existing sprung gate opens onto a residential car park. It is proposed to change the location of the gate to open onto Long Twitchell and to replace with a hydraulic 'Easy-Gate'. The existing gate to be removed and replaced with bow-top fencing.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept Quote A for £1450 plus VAT.

b. Replacement of Contract Hire Four Wheel Drive Pickup Vehicle

Members considered reports and quotations (attached to this Agenda) for the three-year contract hire of an Isuzu D-Max four wheel drive vehicle with extended cab, to replace the existing Ford Ranger.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to accept Quote A with Maintenance for £337.77 per month. This recommendation will go forward to the Town Council Agenda.

c. Splash Park Fund Raising Event

Members considered a request from the Splash Park Committee to hold a fundraising event at Franklins Recreation Ground on Sunday 3rd September from 10am until 4pm.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members have no objection to this request, and suggested helping with advertising the event by including it on the BTC Website and Facebook.

d. Biggleswade United Football Club – Groundsman's Store and Tea Hut

Members considered a request by Biggleswade United Football Club for permission to erect a groundsman's store and tea hut at the BUFC ground, Fairfield Road to replace two storage containers currently in situ. The proposal would be subject to a formal planning application, which will be submitted once they have received our views.

Members felt that this would be a worthwhile improvement. It was **RESOLVED** that Members have no objection to this request, but would like assurance that adequate insurance will be put in place.

e. Biggleswade United Football Club – Works to Trees

Members considered a request by Biggleswade United Football Club to remove a tree on Fairfield Road adjacent to the club house. There has been an issue with roots affecting services to the club house.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members have no objection to this request, subject to an application which is yet to be made to Central Bedfordshire Council due to a current Tree Preservation Order.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Brunel Drive

Further to delays caused by boundary issues, a consensus has been reached with the developers and it is hoped that arrangements for the transfer of public open space to Town Council ownership will now move forward without further delay.

Members commented that this has been a long running issue. The information was **NOTED.**

b. Biggleswade United Football Club – Youth Pitch Requirements

Correspondence has been received from Biggleswade United Football Club regarding the need for pitches for youth training. Members are also asked to note the positive comments regarding the quality of the Town Council's pitches. A copy is attached to this agenda.

Members asked that the Ground Staff be congratulated for their hard work on the pitch, which has made a vast improvement on the clover problem of previous years.

This information was **NOTED.**

c. Biggleswade United Football Club – Lease Renewal

This matter was discussed at a Working Group meeting on 16 May and it was suggested that legal advice should be sought on renewing the current 10 year lease but changing it to a 15 year term with a 10 year break point. A response has been received from the Town Council's solicitor and no concerns were raised.

This information was **NOTED.**

8. 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 members of public present.

9. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item +issue(s) is discussed.

Item 10a	EE – Tenancy Agreement
Item 10b	Heads of terms – Car Park
Item 10c	Allotment – Tenancy Agreement

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

Meeting concluded: 7.45pm