

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th JUNE 2007 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr P F Vickers (Chair), Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr RGC Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward
Mrs D A King - Town Clerk
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police
Members of the Public - 2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs D J Lawrence and T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

a) Prejudicial Interests

There were no prejudicial interests declared

b) Personal Interests

Cllrs PF Vickers and D Smith 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 announced that the presentation to be given by Mr Rix of Boyer Planning had been cancelled. An issue relating to funding from the Primary Care Trust had arisen which needed to be clarified before any planning application can be progressed.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mr Brunt asked when Council would be considering the report of the Annual Assembly. The Mayor stated it would be considered during the course of the current municipal year.

5. INVITED SPEAKERS

Presentation cancelled.

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Crime figures for June were circulated to members. There are still a number of instances of people leaving "Sat Navs" on show in vehicles although theft from vehicles in car parks has improved. Theft was high in June half of which was shop offences.

There have been two important arrests – a Flasher and a person arrested with intent to supply cannabis as a result of information received from the public.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting Council Committee held on Tuesday 15th May 2007 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council held on Tuesday 29th May 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 12th June 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

- d. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. MATTERS ARISING

a. **Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on the 15th May 2007**

The Clerk reported that there had been no feedback in respect of items 15b,c and d but would follow this up with County.

15g - Pocket Park - The Clerk reported that the Beds RCC have received funding from the BBC Breathing Places Scheme together with other sources for an enhancement scheme and which they will start implementing in the next month or so with completion by next March.

b. **Minutes of the Town Council held on the 29th May 2007**

There were no matters arising

c. **Minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 12th June 2007**

There were no matters arising

d. **Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Committee held on the 12th June 2007**

There were no matters arising

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. **07/00933/FULL - 33 Stoneland Avenue, Biggleswade.**

Full: Single 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.

b. **07/00276/ADV - Millennium House, 85 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade.**

Advertisement Consent: 1 no. timber mounted chalk board & 1 no. timber mounted display case (retrospective)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application but do not think it is an appropriate condition

c. **07/00865/FULL - Stratton Upper School, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Creation of additional car park.

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

d. **07/00316/FULL - 59, London Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Change of use of existing building from office to residential & improvement to existing access.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application, subject to observations of Arboculturist.

e.

(i) **07/00997/ADV - Roundabout at A6001 outside Sainsburys, Hill Lane.**

Adv. Consent: Retention of 3 freestanding signs on roundabout

(ii) **07/00995/ADV - Roundabout at A6001 and London Road.**

Adv. Consent: Retention of 3 freestanding signs on roundabout

(iii) **07/00996/ADV - Roundabout at Pegasus Drive and Montgomery Way.**

Adv. Consent: Retention of 4 freestanding signs on roundabout

(iv) **07/00994/ADV - Roundabout at London Road and Holme Court Avenue.**

Adv. Consent: Retention of 4 freestanding signs on roundabout

(v) **07/00991/ADV - Roundabout at Dunton Lane and Sorrell Way.**

Adv. Consent: Retention of 4 freestanding signs on roundabout

- (vi) **07/00993/ADV - Roundabout at Sorrell Way and Chambers Way.**
Adv. Consent: Retention of 3 freestanding signs on roundabout
- (vii) **07/00992/ADV - Roundabout at Sorrell Way and Foxglove Drive.**
Adv. Consent: Retention of 3 freestanding signs on roundabout

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council place a **HOLDING OBJECTION** on these applications for further information as follows:

- a) Whether there is a restriction on number of signs allowed
- b) What revenue implications there are and for whom
- c) Sizes of signs

- f. **07/00938/FULL45 High Street, Biggleswade**
Full: Repositioning of air conditioning unit

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

- g. **07/00942/FULL - 37 Mountbatten Drive, 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.

- h. **07/00890/FULL - 38 Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade**
Full: Extension to front of 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.

- i. **07/01054/FULL - 199 Holme court Avenue Biggleswade**
Full: Dormer to rear elevation

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.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31st May 2007
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments as at 31st May 2007

Cllr Mrs Grayston stated that apart from the Council's Financial Regulations she understood there were no financial policies and felt that a positive policy on Contractors and using local companies should be put in place.

In response it was stated that we try where possible to use local contractors subject to financial regulations. Cllr Vickers stated that quotations are obtained for any item of expenditure over £1000 and unless there are good reasons to the contrary the lowest quote is accepted. All financial expenditure is subject to detailed audit by internal and external auditors.

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Request for Grant - Brigham Playgroup**

Members considered the grant requested by Brigham Playgroup and which was deferred for further information.

It was **RESOLVED** that £500 be granted.

b. **Request for finance assistance from Biggleswade Rugby Union Football Club**

Members considered correspondence from the Biggleswade Rugby Union Football Club asking for a grant towards essential work needed at the club.

It was **RESOLVED** that £500 be granted.

c. **Biggleswade Chamber of Trade - Advertising Banners**

Members considered correspondence from the Chamber of Trade regarding advertising banners/sites in the town.

Cllr Mrs Smith stated that she was disappointed with the contents of the letter. There had been and still is considerable advertising of the Farmers Market. There had been a drop of 18,000 leaflets, it is advertised on the Town Council and District Council Web Sites, notice boards, two banners, Chiltern Radio and leaflets have been sent to Town and Parish Councils in Bedfordshire. She also felt that the Chamber of Trade had members in the Town who could advertise.

Cllr Vickers stated that that a local trader had spoken to him and subject to the agreement of his landlord the banner could be relocated from Century House to a more prominent position in the Market Square.

It was **RESOLVED** that a response be sent to the Chamber of Trade that we are looking for alternative locations for the banner but we are unable to use the balance of the CLF funds for the suggested replacement of stalls as the funds have been specifically earmarked for recreational purposes.

d. **Transfer of Open Spaces at Berkeley Close & Windmill View**

Members were informed that in 2001 a sum of money was agreed with the Developers for the transfer of the above. Nothing further was heard from them until recently when they now wish to complete the transaction. Our Solicitor was asked to write to them to try and get the original sum index linked as six years have elapsed but the Developers have confirmed they will not agree to the proposal. An inspection of the play area has been carried out and there are certain remedial works needed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would be prepared to take on the open spaces at the original sum agreed provided that the equipment on site is brought up to an agreed adoptable standard and complies with health and safety regulations and a time limit of 3 months be imposed on the Developer to complete the work necessary.

e. **P3 2007/2008 Grant Allowance**

It was **RESOLVED** that the request from the Parish Partnership for their allowance of £1000 be used for the printing of leaflets be agreed.

f. **Twinning Tree Plaques**

Members considered the suggestions made by the Twinning Association for the erection of plaques on the twinning trees.

It was **RESOLVED** that the suggestions made be agreed :

Original Tree - "This tree was planted on 30th April 2000 by the Mayors of Biggleswade and Erlensee to commemorate the official twinning of the two towns".

Second Tree - "This tree was planted on the 15th November 2006 by members of Biggleswade Town Council, Biggleswade Twinning Association and students from Erlensee to commemorate the signing of the Twinning Charter".

g. Annual Match with the Bowls Club

It was agreed that the date of 12th July be agreed for the annual match with the Bowls Club.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning Decisions

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

b. Report on Progress of Outstanding Matters

i. Bonds Lane

Members had been given an update at the last Planning Meeting and there was nothing further report.

ii. Saxon Gate Community Centre

Nothing to report.

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mr Brunt stated that when asking for an Agenda he had not been given any attachments. He also asked that a fresh look be taken at the web site as the previous year's minutes had been taken off and thought there should be a list of Councillor's contact details.

The Clerk stated that she had spoken to Mr Brunt on the telephone and explained the reason why he had not been given any attachments. There were always spare copies of agendas and relevant attachments available at the meeting. The previous years council minutes had been taken off the web site to be archived and will be available and the provision of an extra page for contact details will be considered.

