

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th AUGUST 2007 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr P Woodward (Chair) Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr P R Rook, Cllr RGC Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Mrs D A King - Town Clerk
R McGregor - Works Manager
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs R Forbes, R Kerfoot, D Lawrence, Mrs J Lawrence, P F Vickers and T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) **Prejudicial Interests** - None
- b) **Personal Interests**

Cllr D Smith registered an interest as member of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.
Cllrs W Smith, D Smith, G Wilson, P Woodward and S Watkins registered an interest in items 9e and 9 f listed on the agenda as members of the Conservative Club
Cllr P Woodward registered an interest in item 9a listed on the agenda

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that following the theft of lead from the Town Hall Roof urgent work had to be carried out to make the building waterproof and expenditure had to be incurred. Following a further theft over the Bank Holiday Weekend (bringing the number up to 4) the Contractors had been asked to give a quotation for an alternative method to lead. This matter is being treated as a matter of urgency.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

5. ACCOUNTS

(a) Financial Administration

Members received and adopted the following accounts for July:

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

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Ian Wilson circulated the Crime Figures for August to the meeting. He stated that the figures for August were quite good although criminal damage had increased. The majority of theft was theft of metal, mainly lead and certain premises had been targeted more than once. There are not too many leads at the moment and intelligence is poor.
The police are actively seizing vehicles which are being driven in an anti-social manner and one such seizure was as a result of neighbourhood watch information.
The mobile police station which had been on the Market on the previous Saturday had been very successful with 200 visitors.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Special meeting held on Tuesday 24th July 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 meeting held on Tuesday 24th July 2007 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 14th August 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. **MATTERS ARISING - FOR INFORMATION**

- a. Minutes of the Special meeting held on Tuesday 24th July 2007 - none
- b. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th July 2007
Cllr Rook asked whether we would be charged by RBS under item 5. He was assured we would not.
- c. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 14th August 2007 - none

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **07/01355/FULL - 18, Boddington Gardens, Biggleswade.**

Full: Single storey entrance lobby & single storey 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. **07/01367/FULL - 66-68, Sun Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Conversion & extension of no.66 to form 2 no.2 flats, demolition of no.68 & erection of 2 no.2 bed flats

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application for the following reasons:

- Inadequate parking
- Dangerous access
- Concern for the safety of pedestrians
- Blocking of access over right of way

c. **07/01366/FULL - 10 Wilsheres Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: First floor extensions. Conservatory to rear.

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. **07/01308/FULL - 3 Eagle Farm Road, 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.

e. **07/01323/FULL - Biggleswade Conservative Club, St Andrews Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Timber decking & covered smoking shelter to rear of function room.

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

f. **07/01324/LB - Biggleswade Conservative Club, St Andrews Street, Biggleswade.**

Listed Building Consent: Timber decking & covered shelter to rear of function room.

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

g. 07/01408/SE - Asda Store, Church Street, Biggleswade.

Section 73 Determination: Variation of Condition 8 of planning permission 98/01344/OUT dated 17.07.03. to permit deliveries between the hours of 06.00 & 23.00 on Weekdays & Saturdays.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application due to the unnecessary disruption and disturbance to residents in the early morning and late evening.

h. 07/01430/FULL - Land to the rear of Eagle Farm Road.

Full: Extension to existing fence to M.U.G.A.

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

i. 07/01431/FULL – 30 Lincoln Crescent, 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.

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Town Council Walkabout - 23rd July 2007

Members received minutes of the above and endorsed the recommendations.

b. Extension to Backboard of MUGA

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agree to an extension to the Backboard of the MUGA which the District Council have agreed is to be funded from 106 funds.

c. Path and Soakaway at Stratton Way Cemetery

Due to the urgency of work needed to be carried out and only one quotation having been received, it was **RESOLVED** that the expenditure of £1850 be approved.

d. Stratton Way Cemetery

Following correspondence received by the Town Council raising issues in relation to grass cutting and strimming, vandalism and the regulations regarding children and dogs in the cemetery, Councillor Mrs W Smith proposed that a Working Group should be set up to look at matters concerned with the whole of the Cemeteries including the Regulations. This was endorsed by Cllr Mrs Grayston and the Chair suggested that a small group be set up as a matter of urgency.

Following an outburst by Cllr Rook regarding membership of this Group, Cllr Mrs W Smith proposed that he be ruled out of order for his lack of respect and argumentative and intimidating tone to the Chair and that the meeting be suspended.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Councillors be appointed to the Working Group: Mrs S Grayston, D Smith, Mrs W Smith, G Wilson, P Woodward (ex officio) together with the Clerk and Works Manager.

Following Cllr Rook's further outburst, the Chair ruled him out of order and stated there would be no further discussion on the matter.

e. **Bedfordshire Highways 5 Year Programme 2008-2013**

Following the receipt of the Bedfordshire Highways 5 year programme of capital highway schemes which is rolled forward each year, it was **RESOLVED** that the following be put forward for consideration:

Holme Crescent - Patching is unacceptable and the whole of Holme Crescent should be resurfaced.

South Walk, Blunham Road, Hitchin Street - No work has been identified for these areas and they should be resurfaced.

Hitchin Street - Dropped kerbs are required

Pedestrian Crossings Shortmead Street and Potton Road - Needed urgently as a safe route to schools and should be brought forward.

f. **Postal Addresses for 10 Houses and one flat following the demolition of the existing bungalow at 20 Nursery Close**

Members considered the request to choose a name for the above development, and it was **RESOLVED** that "*Rowletts View*" be put forward.

g. **Bedford College Student Awards 2007**

Members considered the request to sponsor one of the student awards again for their Year 2007 event and it was **RESOLVED** that £50 sponsorship be given.

h. **Town and Parish Highways Representative Scheme**

Following the request of County Council Highways have asked for a nominated Highway Representative, It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors G Wilson and RGS Skinner be nominated.

11. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning Decisions**

It was **RESOLVED** that items i. – xviii listed on the agenda be noted.

12. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.