

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2007 AT
THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr P F Vickers (Chair), Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot,
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P R Rook, Cllr RGC Skinner, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson,
Cllr P Woodward, Cllr T Woodward
Mrs D A King - Town Clerk
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police
Laura Hutchinson - Biggleswade Chronicle

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Albone, D Lawrence, D Smith and Mrs W Smith

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) **Prejudicial Interests** - None
- b) **Personal Interests** - Cllr P F Vickers registered an interest as member of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.
Cllr R G Skinner registered an interest in respect of item 10k listed on the agenda.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Town Mayor's announcements

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 August:

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

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Ian Wilson circulated the Crime Figures for September
There had been 2 distraction burglaries where the victims had been elderly. Five cars had been stolen in the month with most of them recovered. Theft from vehicles increased by 4; 80% of these thefts were Sat.Nav. systems and people are still leaving them on view in their cars. There had been an unusually high spate of graffiti with initials being etched into windows. Shortmead Street had been targeted as well as the windows at the front of the Town Hall. Theft had reduced considerably in September with the majority of theft in July and August being theft of lead.

Halloween is usually a very busy night when there is usually a high incidence of theft and damage.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th August 2007 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members to receive and adopt Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 11th September 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. **MATTERS ARISING - FOR INFORMATION**

- a. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th August 2007 - None
- b. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 11th September 2007 -None

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **03/01205/OUT, 05/01423/OUT, 05/01424/OUT,05/01425/OUT & 05/01427/OUT
Land South of Potton Road, Land East of Biggleswade
Draft Masterplan, Design Strategy & Design Code.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application but would comment that the duelling of London Road should be one of the early conditions of the development. The Town Council also hope that the signage will be sufficient to encourage, as much as possible, HGV's to utilise the ring road rather than the existing road network.

- b. **07/01528/FULL - 240 London Road, Biggleswade.**
Full: Part two storey, part single storey side extension with alterations to roof.

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. **07/01496/ADV - 173, London Road, Texaco Garage, Biggleswade.**
Advertisement Consent: Retention of 1 double sided free standing internally illuminated display unit

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided there are no objections from adjacent residents.

10. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a. **Paving to Paths, Bowls Club**

Part paving was carried out from the funds allocated by the Liaison Forum, of which £6,038.33 remains. The cost of completing the work is £10,800 guaranteed until the end of October.

It was **RESOLVED** the balance of £4,761.67 be funded to enable the work to be completed.

- b. **Fairtrade Association, Biggleswade**

Cllr Mrs Sheila Grayston gave an overview to members of the Motion attached to the Agenda. Following a discussion by Councillors, a vote was taken and the motion was not carried.

- c. **Land to the Rear of Nos 141 & 143 London Road, Biggleswade**

The Town Council considered correspondence from Levitt Partnership acting for clients seeking permission for access over land owned by the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be granted subject to a satisfactory financial settlement being made and valuers and legal costs being met.

Cllr Mrs S Grayston recorded her objection to this resolution.

- d. **Kitelands Recreation Ground former Landfill site**

Members considered Anglian Water's request to the Town Council to replace the cover at the existing sampling point, with a cover which can be readily lifted by one person.

It was **RESOLVED** that quotations be obtained for carrying out this work.

e. **County Councillor Surgeries in Biggleswade**

Members considered the request by Beds County Council to use the Chamber for County Councillor's Surgeries. These are non political, help and advice sessions for the public, to be held 6 times a year between 2.00pm and 3.30pm on either the first or second Friday in the month.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be granted.

f. **Biggleswade Town Football Club - Land at Langford Road**

The Football Club will be building an indoor training area, which will incorporate a gymnasium in the centre with health facilities.

Solicitors acting on behalf of the Football Club have therefore suggested that Clause 1 of the restrictive covenants should have after the word "...bingo hall..." the following words "... and for the avoidance of doubt it is confirmed that the use of all or any part of the Property as an indoor training area and/or gymnasium and /or fitness centre with or without health facilities and all uses ancillary to the above shall be permitted".

It was **RESOLVED** that the amendment to Clause 1 be agreed.

g. **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

The Town Council considered the schedule setting out the details of each polling district into which the Town Council's area is divided.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council have no comments to make concerning the polling arrangements and are happy for them to remain as set out.

h. **Street Naming and Numbering, following the demolition of 'Milestones', Dunton Lane, Biggleswade**

Members considered the Developer's suggestion that the postal address could be 1-7 Milestones rather than Dunton Lane to prevent delivery vehicle problems.

It was **RESOLVED** that the town Council raise no objection to this suggestion.

i. **Biggles FM**

Following the request from Biggles FM for a donation towards the costs of the Winter/Broadcast, it was **RESOLVED** that a donation of £200 be made.

j. **White Hart Car Park**

Members considered request from the Biggleswade Fire Station to use the White Hart Car Park, on Saturday 1st December 2007, to do a drink drive/fire safety campaign for Christmas as well as demonstrations.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be granted.

k. **Biggleswade P3**

Members considered the request from the Biggleswade P3 Group to support their bid to the District Council for funds to produce leaflets.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would support the bid.

I. Traffic Calming, Hitchin Street, Biggleswade

Members considered a request from a resident for Traffic Calming in Hitchin Street to support a proposal for assessment by Bedfordshire Highways for Traffic Calming in Hitchin Street.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not support the request as it did not believe it was necessary and would worsen the situation.

m. Request for Yellow Line and No Parking Sign, Potton Road, Biggleswade

Members considered a request from a resident for Yellow Lines and a No Parking Sign at the lane between Potton Road and Edward Peake Middle School which would need the support of the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that before taking the matter further, the County Council be asked to report on the feasibility of the request and any potential problems.

11. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

Cllr Mrs Grayston stated that Council should thank the Works Manager and his team for the speed with which they acted after the police investigation, of removing graffiti from the cemetery.

