

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 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 P R Rook, Cllr RGC Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith,
Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr T Woodward

Mrs D A King - Town Clerk
R McGregor - Works Manager
Mrs Juliet Brookes - Admin Asst
Inspector John Maries - Bedfordshire Police
Members of the Public - 4

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Lawrence and Mrs J Lawrence

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests

Cllrs T Woodard and P Woodward declared an interest in respect of item 10f listed on the agenda. Cllrs Mrs W Smith and PF Vickers declared an interest in respect of item 10e listed on the agenda.

(b) Personal Interests

Cllrs P F 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 announcement to members that a copy of Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document had been circulated to them for comments to be fed back to the office by Monday 26th November 2007. Also circulated to member where details of the briefing details due to take place on the 6th November 2007.

An invitation had been received from Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership for 3 representatives to attend the relaunch of the newly updated Mid Beds CCTV System. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Wendy Smith, Steve Watkins and Rex Skinner would attend.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mrs N Woodward addressed members on behalf of the residents of Ivel Mill who had asked if the life buoy and holder in the rear car park could be relocated to the railings due to parking difficulties and that they would pay the cost involved.

Mr Kevin Goody, Chairman of the St Andrews Chapter House Appeal, asked for the Town Councils written support for this project to enable them to apply for District Council funding.

5. ACCOUNTS

(a) Financial Administration

Members received and adopted the following accounts for September

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30th September 2007
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30th September 2007

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Inspector John Maries was present at the meeting and updated members on initiatives that the Police are running during the next 4 months and on PCSO funding.

He stated that with effect from April 2008 part funding of PCSO's for Town Councils will cease and they will be fully funded by the Government. The allocation is for ten for the Biggleswade policing area and he envisaged two for Biggleswade. There would still be an opportunity to fund extra PSCO's by Councils but this would cost £24,000.

A question was asked whether there would be any extra Police Officer and its was stated that this was not an option and was government driven.

On a question of a number of police working out of Biggleswade Police Station there are: 5 Sergeants, 20 Constables, Sergeant and 5 beat managers and 10 PCSO's. Extra support is also given from CID, Traffic Police and Fire Officers.

Cllr Mrs Smith asked what the plans where for changes in Biggleswade as she believed Greyfriars was being demolished and had heard that Biggleswade Police Station was being sold. Inspector Maries stated there was no truth in the rumours and that the constabulary was reviewing its property holdings and it was his personal view that Biggleswade cannot do without a Police Station.

An operation been directed from Biggleswade Police Station to crack down on under age drinking has been launched. Known hotspots will be targeted and the operation will take place every weekend until the New Year. Police will be targeting Off Licences during the operation to ensure alcohol is not being served to under age youths.

Regarding the Crime Figures circulated there is still a major problem with Satellite navigation systems being stolen from vehicles.

Inspector Maries stated that with the limited capacity of Police and restraints on shifts the Council always has an option to buy extra police time to cover areas they felt needed short term police support. Particularly as they would no longer be funding PCSO's.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th September 2007 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 24th September 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 9th October 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade, subject to the following amendment – 4h – There was concern for potential access to Chapelfields.
- d. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Friday 12th October 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 25th September 2007
- b. Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 24th September 2007
- c. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 9th October 2007
- d. Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Friday 12th October 2007

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **07/01564/FULL - Land at 42, The Balk, Biggleswade.**
Full: Erection of 2 no. 2 bed dwellings to plots 6 & 7 (revised scheme to that previously approved under ref. 07/00209/FULL).

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. 07/01689/FULL - 25, Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.

Full: Conversion of roof space to form 1 x 1 bed flat.

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. 07/01683/FULL - 25, Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.

Full: Formation of front entrance to first floor flat.

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. 07/01693/FULL - 27-27A Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.

Full: Potters studio & one bed flat at first floor.

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. 07/01692/CAC - 27-27A Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.

Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of outside storage building and WC.

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.

f. 07/01636/FULL - Land at Corner of Blunham Road and Holme Crescent, Biggleswade.

Full: Erection of 1 pair of 3 bed semi-detached houses, 11 x 1 bed & 1 x 2 bed flats & detached 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.

g. 07/01679/FULL - 14, Buttercup Mead, Biggleswade.

Full: Single storey 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. 07/01671/ADV - Viceroy Indian Restaurant, 51, Sun Street, Biggleswade.

Advertisement Consent: Retention of signage (retrospective).

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. **06/00136/FULL - 20 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade**
Full: Erection of No 1 three bed dwelling and erection of building to comprise of No 5 one bed and No 1 two bed flats following demolition of existing building.

Changes to layout and design, submission of Noise Impact Assessment

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as they do not wish to see a loss of commercial/retail usage in the town in favour of residential usage and the proposed building is also out of character with the surrounding area.

- j. **07/01671/ADV – Viceroy Indian Restaurant, 51 Sun Street, Biggleswade**
Advertisement Consent: Retention of signage

Amendment: Correct plan submitted

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. **Stratton Way Cemetery**

Cllr Mrs Sheila Grayston asked Cllr Rook did he not feel he should declare a personal interest on this item as it was alleged he was a personal friend of Mr and Mrs Buckland and that he had been appointed their representative.

Cllr Mrs Smith stated that the Working Group set up to look at matters in relation to the Cemeteries including the regulations, had concluded their review and a copy of the amended regulations had been circulated.

A copy of the report produced following a review of the complaints made and other matters which had a bearing on the outcome was circulated to members.

It was **RESOLVED** that the revised regulations as circulated be adopted.

Cllr Rook stated that apart from a grave in the Cemetery he had no other interest. He had received copies of letters like any other Councillor and is approached by the public in the same way.

b. **Request for Yellow Lines and No Parking Sign, Potton Road, Biggleswade**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not support the above application as it was felt it was not necessary following visits by a council member.

c. **Request for Yellow Lines, Saffron Road**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would support the extension of double yellow lines for approximately a further 10ft on the grounds of safety.

d. **Proposed Prohibition of Waiting, Ivel Gardens**

Members considered the proposal to make a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce no waiting at any time on lengths of Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support the above proposal.

e. **St Andrews Church - Project to extend and develop the Chapter House**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would give their written support for the above project to enable them to obtain funding from the District Council.

f. **Relocation of Life Buoy and Holder, Mill Lane**

Following the request by the residents of Ivel Mill to relocate the Life Buoy and Holder from its present position to the railings, it was **RESOLVED** that this be granted subject to the residents paying the full costs. A quotation would be obtained for this work for their approval before any work is commenced.

g. **Biggleswade Christmas Lights**

It was **RESOLVED** that the request for permission to use the Market Square and White Hart Car Park for the funfair on Wednesday 28th November 2007 be granted.

11. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning Decisions**

It was resolved that items i – xx listed on the agenda be noted

12. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mr Paul Fox stated there was a blocked drain in the White Hart Car Park outside the pub door and should be attended to. He also asked where the seat had gone and a reply had been given that it had been taken away for maintenance. He also mentioned the weeds in the Market Square and was told that weed spraying was carried out by the Town Council only at the request of the District Council, who is responsible of the Market Square. He mentioned other matters but was asked to either write or come into the office to advise of any specific problems so they could be looked into.

