

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 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 D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P R Rook, 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 – Biggleswade Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs R Kerfoot, RGC Skinner and T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests - None

Cllr Mrs Grayston asked whether Cllr Rook would be declaring an interest in respect of Item 10e - Christmas Eve Market.

Cllr Rook stated he had no interest to declare, he attended the Market every Saturday to talk to the public.

(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. Cllrs D Smith, Mrs W Smith and G Wilson declared an interest in respect of Item 10b listed on the Agenda.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor outlined the dates of the Christmas Holidays and informed members the District Council would be closing their offices on Monday 24th and Monday 31st December. It was agreed the Town Council would do the same and operate with a skeleton staff on Thursday and Friday 27th and 28th December.

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 October

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

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Ian Wilson circulated November crime figures to members. House burglaries were low and theft from motor vehicles included shopping which had been left in view. Extra funding had been given for Officers to work extra hours until the New Year on an operation to deal with alcohol related problems.

There had been a recent incident in Biggleswade involving a 14 year old girl wielding a knife and who had been arrested.

The new CCTV technology operating out of Stevenage is now fully on line and is a great improvement.

It was reported that Inspector John Maries had been promoted to Chief Inspector and was now working out of Bedford. His replacement is on board and will be introduced to members at a future meeting.

Cllr Woodward asked about the problems at Franklins Recreation Ground and anti-social behaviour. PC Wilson stated the police were aware of the problems and he would be attending a meeting with the residents of Ivel Mill.

In response to a question about sales of alcohol to under age youths, PC Wilson stated that Trading Standards were dealing with this particular problem and test purchases had been made during the last month.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd October 2007 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Off Street Car Parking Committee held on Tuesday 13th November 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 13th November 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- e. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 13th November 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade subject to the following being added to the attendance list: Cllrs Mrs J Lawrence, RGC Skinner, D Smith, Mrs W Smith, Mrs R Forbes, Mrs S Grayston, P Rook and T Woodward.

8. MATTERS ARISING - FOR INFORMATION

- a. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd October 2007 - None
- b. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2007 - None
- c. Minutes of the Off Street Car Parking Committee held on Tuesday 13th November 2007 - None
- d. Minutes of the Public Land & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2007 - None
- e. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2007
The Clerk reported that she was awaiting figures from the District Council in relation to the Skate Park contribution.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **07/01808/ADV - Aldi Store, Bonds Lane, Biggleswade**
Deferred from Planning 13/11/07
Advertisement Consent: Store Entrance mounted sign, Double faced mounted sign, Singled faced wall mounted sign.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to the Externally illuminated and non-illuminated signs but **OBJECT** to the internally illuminated sign as it is completely out of character on a Town Centre site.

Cllr Rook recorded his objection to the resolution.

- b. **07/01834/FULL - 1, Thirlmere Close, Biggleswade**
Full: Erection of two 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.

- c. **07/01864/FULL - 173, Mead End, Biggleswade**
Full: Part first floor, part two storey side extension. Porch extension to front.

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. **Request for Light Controlled Pedestrian Crossing, The Baulk**

Members considered the request received by the County Council from the parents of a daughter resident for a light controlled pedestrian crossing in the Baulk.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would support this request.

b. **The Royal British Legion, Biggleswade Branch - Purchase of a new Standard**

Members considered The Biggleswade Branch of the Royal British Legion appeal for donations to help in the purchase of a new Standard to honour service personnel still on active service and those who gave their lives in past and present conflicts.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would make a donation of £150.

c. **58th Annual Athletic and Grass Track Cycle Race Meeting**

Members considered the request for permission to use both meadows and the pavilion at Fairfield for the above on Saturday 12th July 2008.

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be given.

d. **Sutton Village Band's Christmas Charity Event**

Members considered the request for the above to play for 30 minutes on the afternoon of Saturday 8th December in the Market Square who will be playing Christmas tunes on unamplified instruments and taking a collection for St Johns Moggerhanger.

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be given.

e. **Christmas Eve Market**

Following the request from approximately 15 Traders to hold a Christmas Eve Market, it was **RESOLVED** that this be agreed subject to their stalls being within the confines of the Market Square, refuse is taken home and not put into the bins in the compound and the area is cleaned at the end of the Market.

f. **Confident Communities Fund**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not be allocating funding to PCSO's and therefore this matter would be deferred to the Planning Meeting on the 11th December.

11. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning Decisions**

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

b. **Stratton Park Action Group**

It was **RESOLVED** that the correspondence from the above Action Group which has been set up to oppose the proposed site for travelling show people setting out their concerns be noted.

12. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

