

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2008 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  
Derek Kemp - RBS (part time)  
Catherine Varney - Biggleswade Chronicle (part time)  
PC Ian Wilson - Biggleswade Police  
Members of the Public - 9

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr T Woodward

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

(a) **Prejudicial interests** - Cllr PF Vickers registered an interest in respect of items 8c and 8o  
Cllr Mrs W Smith declared an interest in respect of item 8c 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**

Because of the number of people present who had an interest in item 8c and one person in item 10a it was proposed to bring these items forward, after which the meeting would be suspended to allow the Precept Meeting to take place.

**4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mr K Goody, Chairman of the Chapter House Development Committee at St Andrews Church addressed the meeting and gave the background to the planning application to extend and develop the Chapter House and which was primarily for additional community use. Mr Chris Parker, building liaison, stated that they had been given some recommendations from the District Council, which have been taken on board and these relate to windows, noise limitator, and landscaping advice to avoid visual disturbance of the building.

The Clerk reported that a copy of the petition by the residents had been received together with a number of letters objecting to the planning application which were mainly along the lines of increased noise and nuisance for residents, inappropriate car parking, detrimental effect to the setting and appearance of the church building in a conservation area.

*The Chair was then taken by Cllr P Woodward to discuss Item 8C - planning application 07/02175/Full - Church of St Andrews, Shortmead Street. After the resolution Cllr Vickers returned to the Chair to take item 10a - Request for double yellow lines at the corner of Lawrence Road.*

*The meeting was then suspended in order for the Precept Meeting to take place.*

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

PC Ian Wilson circulated the latest crime figures to Members. The December figures were considerably lower than November except for criminal damage but which had reduced in January. There had also been increased in house burglaries in January. There had been several operations in December which had already had an effect in reducing crime and number of visits had been made to licences premises through the town.

The Community Safety Forum had recently been launched and 3 projects had been identified in relation to criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and damage to vehicles. Problem solving groups have been set up to deal with these projects.

Two new PCSO's have started in Biggleswade and replace the two who have left to join the police force.

## **6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- d. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- e. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

## **7. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 - None
- b. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 - None
- c. Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 - None
- d. Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 - None
- e. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 - The Clerk reported that a meeting will be arranged in the very near future to discuss a Town Plan.

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **07/02068/FULL - 28-28A Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: First floor 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.

- b. **07/02009/FULL - Brunswick House, Rose Lane, Biggleswade.**

Full: Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 07/00823 for the erection of no. 16 apartments.

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

- c. **07/02175/FULL - Church of St Andrews, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Single storey extension to existing church hall.

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

Cllr D Lawrence recorded his abstention from the vote.

- d. **07/02089/LB - The Red Lion, 1, London Road, Biggleswade.**

Listed Building: Erection of timber framed shelter. Build up existing door opening in rear elevation.

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

e. **07/02170/FULL - 75, Lawrence Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Two storey side/rear extension, single storey front extension & 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.

f. **07/02157/ADV - Aldi Store, Bonds Lane, Biggleswade.**

Advertisement Consent: 1 non-illuminated Aldi shop sign.

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

g. **07/02154/FULL - Aldi Store, Bonds Lane, Biggleswade.**

Full: External alterations to West elevation of building.

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

h. **08/00002/FULL - Potton Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: First floor rear extension, conversion of external store room to form part of kitchen to rear & pitched roof to replace existing flat roof to side 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.

i. **08/00017/FULL - 16, Derwent Avenue, Biggleswade.**

Full: Single storey front porch. Two storey side/rear extension. 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.

j. **07/01988/FULL - 65, Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Change of use of commercial ground floor & residential flat x 2 to form one single dwelling unit. (Deferred from Planning Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January)

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.

k. **07/02186/FULL - Linxcroft Leach Partners, Montgomery Way, Plot T, Biggleswade**

Full: Erection of B1 (Business) & B2 (General Industrial) units with associated parking & refuse bin storage.

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

l. **08/00073/FULL - Land at Running Water Farm, Langford Road**

Erection of triple garage with first floor store

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

**m. 08/00064/FULL - 81 Rose Lane Biggleswade**

Full: Garage side extension and new vehicular access

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.

**n. 08/00062/FULL - Liebherr Great Britain, Stratton Business Park**

Full: Extension of Car Park

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

**o. 07/01582/FULL - Fairlands, Chapel Fields, Biggleswade**

Full: Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and erection of 12 No apartments for persons over 55 years of age together with ancillary parking and access arrangements.

Amendment - Proposed site layout and roof plan

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

- The very narrow access onto Shortmead Street is considered dangerous and it would be especially difficult for larger and emergency vehicles.
- Proposed site layout is incorrect in that the area marked "Victoria Place parking area" is in the ownership of 42 and 44 Shortmead Street and is not available for public parking
- Inadequate parking provision

It was also **RESOLVED** that the District Council be asked that this application goes to the Development Control Committee if the Officers are minded to approve.

**9. ACCOUNTS**

**a. Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007
- iv. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007
- v. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- vi. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31<sup>st</sup> December

The Clerk Reported that the wall at St Andrews Car Park was badly damaged and in a dangerous state. An inspection by the District Council confirmed that the wall had to be demolished immediately and rebuilt as soon as possible, an order was therefore given for the work to be carried out, the cost of which is in the region of £3800.

It was **RESOLVED** that the cost associated with this work be vired from the Car Park resurfacing budget.

**10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**a. Request for Double Yellow Lines - Corner of Lawrence Road**

It was **RESOLVED** that the request for double yellow lines on the corner of Lawrence Road be supported. PC Ian Wilson also supported this request and stated that vehicles parking on the corner is a hazard and causes an obstruction for emergency vehicles.

**11. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.



