

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 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 Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P R Rook, Cllr RGC Skinner,
Cllr D Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr T Woodward
Mrs D A King - Town Clerk
Inspector Mark Egan, PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police
Laura Hutchinson - Biggleswade Chronicle
Members of the Public - Mr & Mrs Strange

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs W Smith

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) **Prejudicial interests** - Cllr PF Vickers registered an interest in Item 8f listed on the Agenda

(a) **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

Cllr Vickers informed members that any member of the Town Council is invited to attend a meeting between 2.00pm and 4.00 pm on Saturday 8th March at St Andrews Chapter House with Alistair Burt and members of the Fair Trade Group.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

The crime figures for February to date were circulated. Criminal damage was exceptionally high in the half term week and damage was mainly caused to vehicles. The next meeting of the Problem Solving Group is to be held on the 18th March. The last meeting had highlighted problems in the Baulk and a mobile CCTV camera had been installed.

Inspector Egan stated it was his job to support his Beat Managers and ensure there were sufficient resources. A Criminal Damage Working Group has been set up to look at the problems of criminal damage. A number of operations had identified youths who were causing problems and they are looking to divert youths away from the Town Centre.

It was stated that it appeared that the Bus Station was not as well policed as the Train Station. Inspector Egan stated they were looking at this. The Inspector was asked if the amalgamation with Hertfordshire Police was going ahead to which the answer was it was not on the agenda.

Cllr David Lawrence handed over a list of unreported crime in respect of Sandy View.

Cllr Mrs Grayston asked if there could be some form of police presence during the "Sleep Over" in the Market Square on Saturday evening. Ian Wilson stated he was on duty over the weekend and he would visit the area from time to time.

6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Precept meeting held on 22nd January 2008 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 22nd January 2008 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2008 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Special meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2008 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

7. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Precept meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January 2008 - None
- b. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January 2008 - None
- c. Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2008 - It was agreed there would be a short meeting of the Liaison Group at the end of the Town Council meeting.
- d. Minutes of the Special meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2008 - None

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. 08/00044/LB - Railway Station, Station Road, Biggleswade.

Listed Building: Installation of 1 no. CCTV camera to canopy to waiting room at platforms 1 & 2.
1 no. CCTV camera to canopy to ticket hall.

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

b. 08/00047/LB - Railway Station, Station Road, Biggleswade.

Listed Building: 1 no. wall-mounted customer help point & conduit to platform 1 & 2 waiting room.

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

c. 08/00211/OUT - Land Adjacent 36, Mead End, Biggleswade.

Outline: Erection of one dwelling (all matters reserved except layout and access).

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

d. 08/00215/FULL - 29, Playfield Close, Biggleswade.

Full: Two 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. 08/00219/FULL - 27, Playfield Close, Biggleswade.

Full: Two 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.

f. 08/00220/FULL - Fairlands, Chapel Fields, Biggleswade.

Full: 11 no. apartments for people over 55 years of age together with allocated parking & new access onto Chapel Fields.

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

- It is an over-development of the site and is of an overpowering size and design which would have a detrimental impact on residents.
- Inadequate parking provision and access for the number of apartments

g. 08/00019/FULL - 45, Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.

Full: Detached garage and storeroom.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application subject to vehicle access being onto Hitchin Street and not the car park of the Doctor's Surgery.

h. 08/00231/FULL - 51, Dells Lane, Biggleswade.

Full: Erection of 1.8 metre boundary fence.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application due to the height of the fence on the front of the property and the impact on visibility.

9. ACCOUNTS

a. Financial Administration

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31st January 2008
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31st January 2008

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Correction of Lettering on Biggleswade War Memorial

Members considered the request for correcting the name of Victor Milton on the Biggleswade War Memorial who was killed in WWI and commemorated on the memorial.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be agreed and the Town Council would arrange for the work to be carried out.

b. Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health & Social Care Partnership NHS Trust

It was **RESOLVED** that the request for a stall on the Market with a view of raising their profile and talking to people about changes that are taking place be granted.

c. Biggleswade Carnival

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be given for the Funfair to be erected after 6.00 pm on Tuesday 24th June and open on the 26th, 27th and 28th June on the Market Square.

d. Biggleswade Heritage Project

Carrie-Anne Rowley, Environment & Community Officer, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is in the process of applying for funding from English Heritage to enable the creation of the Biggleswade Heritage Project. The project will focus on the historic environment of Biggleswade town and its surroundings, aiming to provide information on the areas' unique past and to encourage members of the community to engage with their local heritage through a programme of events including tours and exhibitions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would give their written support to this project.

e. RNLI Collection

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be given to The Royal National Lifeboat Institution to have a Lifeboat on a trailer on the White Hart Car Park on their Flag Day on the 6th September 2008.

f. **Applications - Premises Licences**

Members considered the following:

Variation of Licence:

i. **UK Kebab and Pizza, Hitchin Street**

To extend the provision of late night refreshment to 23.00 - 00.30 Mon-Thurs
23.00 - 01.30 Fri & Sat
23.00 - 00.30 Sun

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to the extension of the hours due to the public nuisance it would cause late at night.

ii. **UK Fried Chicken & Pizza, High Street**

To include the supply of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises between the hours of 10.00 - 01.00 Mon – Sun

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to the above as there is adequate provision for the purchase of alcohol elsewhere, it would create a public nuisance and have a detrimental impact on the amenity value of the residents above the premises.

New Licence:

iii. **Shortmead House, Fairfield Road**

Plays, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of Dance, Provision of facilities for making music and supply of alcohol: 10.00 - 24.00 Mon - Sun
Late night refreshment: 23.00 - 02.00 Mon - Sun

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to the application on the grounds of the public nuisance impact on Fairfield Road, the Bridleway and nearby residents.

11. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

12. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

