

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 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 S Grayston, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot,  
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  
Mrs J Brookes - Finance Assistant  
PC Ian Wilson - Bedfordshire Police  
Catherine Varney - Biggleswade Chronicle  
Members of the public - 3

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R Forbes and Cllr T Woodward

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**(a) Prejudicial interests** – Cllr P F Vickers declared an interest in respect of item 8 (i) and 10a (i) No 20 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. Cllrs Mrs W Smith, D Smith and G Wilson registered an interest in respect of item 10 e listed on the agenda. Cllrs Mrs J Lawrence, D Lawrence, Mrs W Smith, D Smith, S Watkins, G Wilson and P Woodward registered an interest in respect of item 8 i listed on the Agenda. Cllr P Woodward registered an interest in respect of item 8 g listed on the Agenda.

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

PC Ian Wilson circulated crime figures to 25 March. Criminal damage had more than doubled in February but was average for March. The March figures on theft from motor vehicles had doubled in March. 17 of these were over the Bank Holiday weekend and mainly in the Saxon Gate Estate and related to Sat Nav Systems. The vehicle watch project is ongoing and this involves visiting car parks etc and identifying cars where vulnerable property has been left in view.

**6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26 February 2008 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 11 March 2008 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26 February 2008 - None
- b. Minutes of the Planning Meeting 11 March 2008 - None

**8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **08/00354/OUT - Land at 17 to 21, Sun Street, Biggleswade.**  
Outline Application: Erection of 4 no. 3 bed dwellings (All matters reserved except Layout, Scale & Access).

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

**b. 08/00367/FULL - 2 Stratton Way, Biggleswade.**

Full: Two storey side extension & alterations.

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. 08/00348/LDC - 24 High Street, Biggleswade.**

Lawful Development Certificate: A house of multiple occupation incorporating six bedrooms on the first & second floors of premises.

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

**d. 08/00359/FULL - 89 London Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Part two storey part single storey rear extension & single storey front 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. 08/00377/FULL - 160 London Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Part two storey, part single storey side 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.

**f. 08/00381/FULL - 5 The Avenue, Biggleswade.**

Full: Two storey side extension following demolition of existing garage & kitchen.

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. 08/00387/FULL - 128 Drove Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Part two storey & part 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.

**h. BC/CM/2008/7 - Golf Driving Range, Hill Lane, Biggleswade.**

To extend an existing bunded structure with associated woodland planting, utilising inert material.

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

**i. 08/00399/LB - Biggleswade Conservative Club, St Andrews Street**

Listed Building Application: Replace ground floor windows and French doors to rear elevation.

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

**j. 08/00434/FULL - The Old Fire Station, Church Street, Biggleswade**

Full: Two storey rear extension for office use and use of existing ground floor for offices.

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

**9. ACCOUNTS**

**a. Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**b. Audit of 2007 Annual Return**

Following the amendment to the figures on the Statement of Accounts requested and agreed by the Audit Commission and the Accountant, it was **RESOLVED** that Council re-approve sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for 2006/2007.

**c. Fidelity Insurance**

The Audit Commission has stated that Council should review its level of fidelity guarantee insurance cover, currently £300,000. Following advice from the Accountant it was **RESOLVED** that in the view of the controls in place, the level of Fidelity Insurance cover was sufficient.

**10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**a. Grants/Donations**

- i. Members considered applications for Community Grants and it was **RESOLVED** the following grants be made:

1.	Biggleswade Sea Cadet Corp	£1500
2.	The Pasque Charity (Keech Cottage)	£ 500
3.	Rainbow Pre-School	£400
4.	Vitalise	£628.25
5.	Biggleswade Sports	£200
6.	Biggleswade First Aid Club	£300
7.	Citizens Advice Bureau	Nil
8.	Biggles FM	£600
9.	Ivel Rangers	£360
10.	Biggleswade Twinning Association	£100
11.	Biggleswade Air Training Corps	£200
12.	Ivel Stroke Club	£200
13.	Bigg & Dist Older Peoples Action Group	£600
14.	Biggleswade History Society	£300
15.	Biggleswade Library	£200
16.	Biggleswade Rail Access Campaign	Nil
17.	Biggleswade 7 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Pack	£150
18.	Biggleswade 4 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Pack	£150
19.	Trinity Toddler Group	£400
20.	Chapter House Development	£500
21.	BATS	£500
22.	St Andrews Holiday Club	£200
23.	Biggleswade & District Pensions Assoc	£100
24.	Mid Beds Link-a-Ride	£200

ii **Matchball Sponsorship – Cricket Club**

It was **RESOLVED** that Council would sponsor 6 match balls at a cost of £10 per game.

b. **Enhanced Parish Partnership Scheme 2008/2009**

The work setting up the replacement Enhanced Parish Partnership Scheme has been completed with an improved budget. Council are now asked to decide on what it would like to do with its allocation of £17,000. Details of the scheme are attached to the Agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council's allocation of £17,000 be used for the following works:

1. Paths/kerbing Hitchin Street - from junction with Saffron Road after traffic lights, going towards Langford on the east side.
2. Church Street - Paths/kerbing both sides
3. London Road – Paths from Kitelands south to Dunton Roundabout
4. Paths - Saffron Road, southern side

c. **Fairtrade Association, Biggleswade**

The following Motion was put forward by Cllr Mrs Sheila Grayston:

“Biggleswade Town Council resolves to support Fairtrade Association Biggleswade (FAB) in its endeavour to seek Fairtrade Status for Biggleswade. This support does not commit the Town Council to any provision of resources”.

Following a discussion by members for and against the motion, a vote was taken and recorded as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Mrs Sheila Grayston, Mrs Rebecca Kerfoot and D Albone

AGAINST: Cllrs Mrs Jane Lawrence, D Lawrence, Mrs Wendy Smith, D Smith, G Wilson, S Watkins, P Rook.

ABSTAINED: Cllrs P Vickers and P Woodward

The motion was not carried.

d. **French Market**

It was **RESOLVED** that a French Market be held in the Market Square on Friday 11 July.

e. **Royal British Legion Recruitment Day**

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be given to the British Legion to hold a recruitment day in the Market Square on Saturday 28 June.

f. **Street Naming - 123 Shortmead Street - Postal Address for 42 Sheltered Apartments**

Members considered the above application for Street Naming and the Developers suggestion 'Pepys Court'.

It was felt that the name suggested was not appropriate and it was **RESOLVED** that 'Wellington Court' be put forward.

g. **A1 Biggleswade Roundabout**

Following correspondence received from Amey on behalf of BCC regarding the possibility of improving the roundabout on the A1 to the south of Biggleswade, it was **RESOLVED** that this matter be deferred until more background information is received

h. **Construction of Balancing Pond at Beauford Farm, Biggleswade**

Following correspondence received from Amey regarding the construction of a new balancing pond, it was **RESOLVED** that this matter be deferred until more background information is received.

i. **Re-classification of A6001 Biggleswade to Henlow**

Members considered correspondence from Langford Parish Council regarding concerns over highway safety in Langford which have been discussed with Bedfordshire Highways who in turn have consulted GO-East.

In accordance with advice given by Bedfordshire Highways, Langford Parish Council are seeking the blessing of the Town Council for the proposal.

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

11. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.