

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 MAY 2008 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr P Woodward (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 Rook, Cllr R Skinner,
Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr S Watkins.
Mrs D A King – Town Clerk
Mrs M Russell – County Councillor
Laura Hutchinson – Biggleswade Chronicle
Members of the Public – 2

1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2008/2009

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr P Woodward be elected to the office of Town Mayor for the year 2008/2009

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor, Cllr P Woodward signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr G Wilson be elected to the office of Deputy Mayor for the year 2008/2009

4.. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr G Wilson, was not present to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and would do so with the Clerk at a later date.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES

a. It was **RESOLVED** that membership of Standing Committees be adopted as follows;

Planning

Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr D Lawrence,
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr P Vickers,
Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr T Woodward.

Finance and General Purposes

Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr S Watkins,
Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr T Woodward.

Public Land & Open Spaces

Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr D Smith,
Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr T Woodward.

Off Street Car Parking

Cllr D Albone, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr D Smith,
Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr G Wilson Cllr T Woodward

Personnel

Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr Mr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner,
Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward.

Appeals

Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr T Woodward

b. It was **RESOLVED** that appointments of Chair of each Committee be adopted as follows:

Planning	Cllr G Wilson
Finance and General Purposes	Cllr P Vickers
Public Land and Open Spaces	Cllr Mrs W Smith
Off Street Car Parking	Cllr D Lawrence
Personnel	Cllr Mrs J Lawrence

6. **APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

It was **RESOLVED** that appointments to the following bodies be adopted as follows:

Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils	Cllr P Woodward
Bedfordshire Town Councils Group	Cllr P Woodward
Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association	Cllr R Skinner
Biggleswade Twinning Committee	Cllr R Skinner. substitute: Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot
Crime Prevention Panel	Cllrs G Wilson and Mrs R Kerfoot. substitute: Cllr R Skinner
Parish Paths Partnership (P3)	Cllr R Skinner and Cllr G Wilson
Sir John Cotton Educational Foundation	Cllr Mrs J Lawrence
County-Wide Assembly	Cllr G Wilson

7. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr G Wilson and Cllr T Woodward

8. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(a) **Prejudicial Interests**

Cllr P Vickers registered an interest in item 13g listed on the Agenda

(b) **Personal Interests**

Cllrs P 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.

9. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

10. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

11. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Members received and adopted minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 April 2008 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

12. **MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22 April 2008 – none.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. **08/00659/FULL - Acorn House, Sun Street, Biggleswade**

Full: Replacement windows, fascias, guttering & cladding.

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

b. **08/00596/FULL - 8 Market Square, Biggleswade**

Full: Change of use from A1 retail to D2 indoor play centre & alteration to existing access door.

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

c. **08/00701/FULL - 80 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: 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.

d. **08/00702/FULL - 1 Ely Croft, Biggleswade.**

Full: Proposed loft conversion with dormer 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.

e. **08/00488/FULL - County Tyres & Exhausts, Ivel Bridge, Biggleswade.**

Full: Erection of 8no. 1 bed & 4no. 2 bed apartments following demolition of existing premises. (This is an amendment to original Application: 12 no.1 bed & 1no.2 bed apartments.)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application **PROVIDING** the building is in keeping with the development on the South Side of Shortmead Street.

f. **08/00733/FULL - 2 South Walk, 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.

g. **08/00765/FULL - 9 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Conversion from office to residential, two storey side extension to provide 5no. one bedroom flats & 3no. one bedroom houses with parking

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as it is considered an overdevelopment, there would be a detrimental impact on the street scene in a conservation area and would cause further problems in respect of traffic in an already congested area and was felt that there would also be a detrimental impact on the surrounding properties and residents in respect of noise and light implications, privacy and loss of amenity. The Town Council would not like to see a loss of commercial premises, particularly office space with parking of which there is shortage in the Town.

h. 08/00776/FULL - 25 Beech Avenue, Biggleswade

Full: First floor front extension and conversion of garage to habitable room.

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. 08/00806/FULL - 5 The Avenue, Biggleswade

Full: Two Storey side extension following demolition of garage and 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.

j. 08/00800/FULL- 5A and 5B Rose Lane, Biggleswade

Full: Change of use from A1 business use to residential on ground floor of 5A Rose Lane
The formation of a two bedroom dwelling incorporating 5A and 5B Rose Lane.

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

14. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Dates for Committee Meetings 2008/2009

Members received and approved dates for Committee Meetings for 2008/2009 as circulated

b. Land adjacent to 6 Church Street, postal addresses for 23 sheltered apartments.

Following an application for street naming, the Developers have liaised with the History Society and proposed Ryland Court or Jakes Court for this development.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council propose the name of **HILTON COURT** be used.

c. Theme - Land East of Biggleswade

Following an application by David Wilson Homes received by the District Council for the site which fronts onto the Potton Road, Council were asked to suggest a theme for street names

It was **RESOLVED** that the theme of **BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS PRE 1950** be used.

d. Flutters Bingo Club

Members discussed correspondence received from Flutters regarding the retrospective planning application rejected by the District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agree with the decision made and considers the signage and illumination is detrimental to the preservation and character of the conservation area.

e. A1 Biggleswade Roundabout and Construction of Balancing Pond at Beauford Farm

Members discussed the response given by the County Council on their request for more background information.

It was **RESOLVED** that a further letter be sent to County requesting information on all the various projects, consolidated on one plan in relation to this area of the A1.

f. **Brambly Tots Day Nursery - "Brambly Birthday Bash"**

Following the request of Brambly Tots Day Nursery to hold a Birthday Party in Franklins Recreation Ground on the 7 June, and they are also proposing to raise funds for play equipment to be donated to the Town Council for this recreation area.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this request, subject to the submission of a Health & Safety Risk Assessment and proof of appropriate insurance cover.

g. **Furzenhall Residents Association - Furzenhall Play Area**

The Town Council considered correspondence from the Furzenhall Residents Association regarding the above play area, which they would like to improve by applying for grants and fund raising for which they have asked Councils permission.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would be happy to give this permission.

h. **River Ivel - Free Fishing**

Following a request for the Town Council to issue 'Permits to Fish', the free stretch of water, Members discussed the matter further.

It was **RESOLVED** that it would not be practicable to police an area measuring 6m x 100m, no further action would be taken.

i. **Arqiva Transmitting Station, EDF Substation, Holme Crescent**

Members considered correspondence from Arqiva outlining their current plans at the above transmitting station. The proposal is to install enabling apparatus in order to allow the dual operator services to be transmitted without the need for any external changes to the site.

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

j. **Biggleswade Rail Access Campaign Funding**

Members considered correspondence received from a member of the above regarding the groups objectives of campaigning for step free access to the platforms for wheelchair users and for those with mobility problems. His particular problem is that the station is completely inaccessible to blind people on the town side of the railway and hoped that the funding decision can be reconsidered.

A rescission of the previous resolution was put forward and signed by 5 Councillors and proposed that the decision made on 25 March 2008 (Grants/Donations) be rescinded and the Biggleswade Rail Campaign be given a grant of £100.

It was **RESOLVED** that the previous decision be rescinded and a grant of £100 under Section 137 be given.

15. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

16. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

It is advisable that in the public interest, the public and press are excluded whilst the Exempt Items appertaining to paragraph 8, 9 and 11 of the 1985 (Act) and that they are requested to withdraw.

