

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT
HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith (Chair), Cllr G Wilson (Vice Chair), Cllr R Skinner,
Cllr D Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr T Woodward,
Also present; Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr P Rook
Rob McGregor – Biggleswade Town Council - Works Manager
Juliet Brookes – Biggleswade Town Council - Finance Assistant

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence and Cllr Mrs R Forbes.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) **Prejudicial interests in any agenda item** - There were no Prejudicial interests declared.

(b) **Personal interests in any agenda item** - There were no Personal interests declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

4. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

a. MUGA and sign for Eagle Farm Road – Plans were displayed for Members information.

Members were informed that a Planning Application has been submitted to Mid Beds District Council for the MUGA for approval.

b. Biggleswade United Football Club

Members were informed there was no update yet as the application is still with the Planning Department at Mid Beds District Council.

c. Cemeteries

Members were informed that there were no problems or complaints at the moment.

d. Allotments

Members were informed that there are now more than 40 people on the waiting list for an allotment, the demand had grown lately, and that wherever possible allotments were being split into 2 to help reduce the list. Town Council is to again request more land for allotments.

5. ALLOTMENTS

a. The Town Council has received correspondence requesting proposed formation of an Allotment Group.

The Council **RESOLVED** to raise no objection to this request.

The gentleman in question is to be informed that due to the Data Protection Act the Town Council were not able to provide tenants details, but that he would need to approach them personally.

b. The Town Council has received correspondence requesting permission to run a spur pipe from the water supply at the allotments.

Members were informed that the Town Council do not own the water supply infrastructure, it is rented from County Council, therefore the applicant would need to make contact themselves.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. Maintenance, adoption and ownership of various sites, i.e. verges, ditches, play areas etc

At this point Cllr Rook had to be informed by the Chairman that he was now unable to speak at Committee Meetings. He advised that he had not received the necessary communication. A subsequent copy was signed by the Mayor and handed to Cllr Rook at the end of the meeting in the presence of other Councillors. It should be noted that the original letter had been hand delivered by a Council employee to his home.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council carry out more research as to the ownership of various sites. But would carry out maintenance when necessary on the path at Station Road/Saffron Road, Grasmere (The Dip), and pathways from The Dells and Dells Lane to the Station bridleway.

- b. Members were asked to identify 106 items for Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that the money, relating to CCTV 06/00174/FULL, be used to re-locate the CCTV Camera in the High Street.

It was also confirmed that an up-to-date list of '106 income allocation' is kept in the Town Council office.

- c. Proposed new green infrastructure

It was noted that Cliff Andrews and Zoe Ashby from BRCC would liaise to ensure that the new green infrastructure plan ties in with the Town Plan.

- d. Members were asked to consider dates of walk-about and next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the next walk-about will be on Thursday 4 September. Full details will be given to Councillors at the next Council meeting on 26 August.

Councillor Vickers asked for Fairfield Recreation Area and The Town Council taking over part on the Common, to be added to next agenda of the Public Lands and Open Space Committee, which will be **14 October 2008**.

- e. Members were informed that correspondence had been received from The Furzenhall Residents Association stating that they had obtained funding to install new fencing around the triangle. They are seeking approval from the Town Council to proceed with the fencing.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agreed in principle but felt that it would be appropriate to arrange a meeting between Cllr Mrs W Smith, Chair of the Public Land and Open Space Committee, Rob McGregor, Works Manager and Furzenhall Residents Association to obtain more information.

7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

