

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2009 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 Mrs R Forbes, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence.
Rob McGregor –Works Manager
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Also present – Cllr P Rook

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr S Watkins, Cllr R Skinner and Cllr T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items were discussed during the public open session.

4. INVITED SPEAKERS

Cliff Andrews from BRCC presented his proposal for the Green Infrastructure Plan.

It was advised they need to distinguish all current Green Areas, ie Public Open Spaces, Allotments etc. They will be then be looking to producing a plan based on community consultation, from residents upwards.

It would be looked to be implemented over the next few years, and they would be contacting all community groups and organisations within Biggleswade to invite them to attend meetings and for their input to their Plan. They would like Biggleswade Town Council to join them in support and involvement. BRCC work very closely with the Town Plan Steering Group and will ensure the Green Infrastructure Plan fits in with the Steering Group proposals.

He advised briefly on how the Plan will work, starting with Workshops to look at current maps and then moving forward to proposed maps. This will enable all of the community to identify areas, that they feel are of most value to them, to incorporate onto the proposed maps.

The 1st Stakeholder Workshop is due to take place on 19th February 2009. They then plan to hold a drop in Workshop on 5th March 2009 with the 2nd Stakeholder Workshop on 19th March 2009.

Cliff Andrews would like to attend our Planning meeting on 14th April 2009 at 7pm, to submit his proposals based on the above, and to endorse full support from ourselves.

5 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Tree work

Members considered a quotation received from The Tree People (Bedford Ltd) for work to be carried out at various sites in Biggleswade. The total cost (inc VAT) - £1,468.75.

It was **RESOLVED** that this quotation be accepted. Cllr J Lawrence asked if the chippings would be utilised. Rod McGregor advised that Town Council removes all the chippings and puts them in a pile at the allotments. Cllr P Woodward asked if there was a budget to cover the costs, Rob McGregor confirmed that there is.

b. Playing fields, Kitelands Road, Biggleswade

Members considered a quotation received from BSG Property Services Ltd to carry out work at Kitelands Road playing fields. The total cost (Inc VAT) - £748.47.

It was **RESOLVED** that this quotation be accepted

c. Request from Biggleswade resident

Members considered a request from a resident of London Road, Biggleswade. They have two Lombardy Poplars in their garden, that Mid Beds arboriculturalist, has advised need to come down, and they are in the process of obtaining quotations.

They have requested that when the work is done, if they could have the timber and debris removed across the garden of their neighbour at 143 London Road, whose garden is adjacent to Chambers Way. That way the transport for removal of the timber would be parked off London Road, hopefully causing less traffic difficulties.

In order for this to take place, they need consent from Town Council to allow the timber to be taken across the verge between the neighbours fence and the highway. Town Council own the verge.

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be granted **PROVIDED** that any damage caused to verges and mature shrubs, is rectified at the expensive of the resident.

d. Biggleswade United Football Club – Permission to site a notice board

Town Council considered correspondence from Biggleswade United Football Club requesting permission to site a notice board within the vicinity of Dan Albone Car Park. The purpose of the notice board would be to advertise the Clubs' fixtures in order to gain increased support from local people.

It was **RESOLVED** that more information is requested from BUFC regarding the exact position, size, and the proposed design of the sign.

e. Biggleswade United Football Club – Funding for Installation of Floodlights

Town Council considered correspondence from Biggleswade United Football Club requesting funding to provide installation of floodlights at the Lakes Recreation Ground. They have provided a list of problems faced by local teams at present with inadequate lighting for practice.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council had already committed funding to BUFC and felt other monies needed to be utilised in other areas. It was also felt that their request would cause problems to local residents.

6. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items were discussed during the public open session.

