

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2009 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD,
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr G Wilson (Chair), Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Lawrence,
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith (Vice Chair),
Cllr T Woodward, Cllr P Vickers

Rob McGregor – Works Manager
Juliet Brookes - Finance Assistant
Laura Hutchinson – Biggleswade Chronicle
Members of the Public - 1

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P Woodward, Cllr D Albone and Cllr S Watkins

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) **Prejudicial interests in any agenda item** - Cllr Mrs S Grayston registered an interest to Item 5b as she is currently Chair of the Rail Access Campaign.

(b) **Personal interests in any agenda item** - Cllr PF Vickers and Cllr D Smith registered an interest as a member of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions that are pertaining to matters listed on this Agenda.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. 08/02369/ADV – Bingo Hall, Station Road, Biggleswade

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application. It was felt that the District Council were breaking their own rules based on the Conservation Area Draft Statement. It was felt that this was not in keeping with the street scene and that the premises are situated in an conservation area. The Town Council asked for the planning application to be called in.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Premises licence application from Biggleswade Service Station, London North Road

Council has received notification from Mid Beds District Council reference a licence application from Biggleswade Service Station, London North Road, that would allow late night refreshment and supply of alcohol at the premises.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted.

b. Proposed works to Biggleswade Railway Station

Members considered correspondence received from Colin Wilkinson at Bedfordshire Highways, informing of proposed works to Biggleswade Railway Station. The works are to be completed by the end of this financial year. Mr Wilkinson would like to hear any comments on the proposed works no later than the 14 January 2009.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to the plans of the proposed works. It was felt that the plans were not acceptable. The Town Council although agreeing something had to be done

to improve the Railway Station felt that the proposed works had not been thought out very well and appeared to be done in a rush. The Town Council has identified that the new Unitary Authority when it comes into affect has also identified the Railway Station as a high priority, therefore they feel that if any work is carried out in haste now and is found to be unsatisfactory, this may mean that more works may need to be done at a later date causing more upheaval to rail users. The Town Council felt that the sighting of the bus stop and pedestrian crossing may not be in the most appropriate place. The Town Council whilst agreeing that new signage needed to be put up, were concerned that many signs in and around the town belonging to County are no longer appropriate and out of date and needed to be removed.

The Town Council would like Mr Wilkinson to consider in more depth what needs to be done to improve the Railway Station and if possible for him to attend the next Town Council meeting to discuss any future proposals.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Re-numbering of Manse house building as 24A London Road, Biggleswade

Members received correspondence from Mid Beds District Council informing Council that the offices and Baptist Church, London Road, Biggleswade are to have separate postal addresses. The Church will retain the address of 24 London Road and the Manse house will adopt the postal address of 24A London Road.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted.

b. Land at Corner of Blunham Road and Holme Crescent, Biggleswade – postal addresses for 1 pair of semis and 12 flats

Correspondence has been received from Mid Beds District Council informing Council that the addresses of the new dwellings being constructed on the land at corner of Blunham Road and Holme Crescent, Biggleswade is to be **Carrs Gardens, Blunham Road, Biggleswade**.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted.

c. Planning Decisions

Council Decision

i.	07/01216/OUT – Furzenhall Cottage, Furzenhall Rd.	- OUTLINE PERMISSION	No objection
ii.	08/01898/FULL – 27-27A Hitchin Street	- REFUSED	No objection
iii.	08/01920/CAC - 23-31 London Road	- REFUSED	No objection
iv.	08/01927/FULL – 5 Nursery Close.	- APPROVED	No objection
v.	08/02038/FULL – 2 Sandpiper Close	- APPROVED	No objection
vi.	08/02011/FULL - 36 Derwent Avenue	- APPROVED	No objection
vii.	08/02109/TPO - 7 Dells Lane	- APPROVAL	No objection
viii.	08/02170/TPO - The Lawns Excellence Centre	- APPROVAL	No objection
ix.	BC/CC/2008/44 - Sunnyside Special School	- GRANTED	No objection
x.	BC/CC/2008/34 - Cow Close, Langford Road	- REFUSED	Strongly object
xi.	08/01941/FULL - 238 London Road	- APPROVED	No objection
xii.	08/01704/FULL - 23-31 London Road	- APPROVED	No objection

It was **RESOLVED** that these be noted.

d. Planning Appeal Decisions

i.	08/00765/FULL - 9 Shortmead Street	- DISMISSED	Object
ii.	08/00399/LB - Conservative Club, St Andrews Str	- DISMISSED	No objection
iii.	07/01937/FULL - 8 The Baulk	- GRANTED	Object

It was **RESOLVED** that these be noted.

e. **Bedfordshire Countywide Partnership**

Council has received a copy of the tenth edition of the Bedfordshire Countywide Partnership Bulletin informing of the latest progress and developments.

It was **RESOLVED** that these be noted.

f. **Notification of Enforcement Order served by Mid Beds District Council**

Correspondence has been received from Mid Beds District Council informing Council of an Enforcement Notice that has been served at 'Land and Buildings on West Side of Foundry Lane'.

It was **RESOLVED** that these be noted.

7. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions that are pertaining to matters listed on this Agenda.

Ann Skinner, who is involved with the Rail Access Campaign asked what length of time they would be looking at with regards to plans when Central Beds have involvement.

Cllr Mrs W Smith advised that Central Beds would become involved from 1st April 2009 and that these plans are featured as high priority.

