

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr P Woodward (Chair), Cllr G Wilson, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr D Smith, Cllr T Woodward, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr R Rook
Rob MrGregor – Works Manager
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Sue Crowther – Administration Assistant
Laura Hutchinson – Biggleswade Chronicle

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests

There were no prejudicial interests declared.

(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.

Cllr R Skinner registered an interest in items 11a and 12c as listed on the agenda.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Mayor's Announcements.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A member of the public spoke against the plan re-development of the Rising Sun Public House, Sun Street, item 9c as listed on the agenda.

The family purchased a house next door several years ago, because it is a quaint, detached, 200 year old property and an ideal place to bring up their children.

She stated that the proposed new building would be a 3 storey property overlooking their house and garden, and they would therefore, have no privacy. She is very concerned that due to nature of the dwellings, what security would be in place and is worried about her children's welfare. Also, it is planned that bins for the new property be kept at the bottom of the garden as well as cutting down of Conifer trees. Both of these things are detrimental to their property.

Another member of the public spoke against the planned re-development of the Rising Sun Public House. He lives opposite and is concerned about the noise and disturbance that would be generated by the proposed dwellings. He stated that parking in St Johns Street is already very difficult, and as there is only 5 parking spaces planned in the new development, wondered where the vehicles would park as well as the construction vehicles.

He stated that at the moment Sun Street is a safe route for school children to walk to St Andrews, Holmead and Edward Peake schools, and that the amount of extra traffic generated by the new dwellings would jeopardise that.

5. INVITED SPEAKERS

Mid Bedfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau did not attend the meeting.

6. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Councillors received a report from PC Ian Wilson including latest crime figures.

Generally crime figures were down in December, although burglaries were up. A significant arrest had been made, and this person had owned up to 8 burglaries.

Some of the burglaries involved car keys stolen from houses, resulting in cars then being stolen.

There were 4 major robberies in the area December, which the CID are investigating.

Criminal damage figures are reducing, and things are pretty quiet at the moment.

The Radio Link was working well with several arrests made. There is more publicity planned in the next few weeks.

The crime mapping figures can be found on Bedfordshire Constabulary website, following the links to Biggleswade SNT.

2 ASBO's had been issued, one in Station Road, where good progress had been made with the tyre slashing problem, with only one in December, and none so far this month.

7 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 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 9 December 2008 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Public Land and Open Space meeting held on 6 January 2009 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- d. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 13 January 2009 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2008 - None
- b. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 9 December 2008 - None
- c. Minutes of the Public Land and Open Space meeting held on 6 January 2009 - None
- d. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 13 January 2009- None

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **08/02317/FULL – 21 Palace Street, Biggleswade.**
Full: Variation of condition 5 on planning approval 06/01256/FULL 'All external joinery shall be painted timber & prior to any development commencing on site detailed drawings shall have been submitted to & approved by Local Planning Authority showing: 1- Window Sections, 2-Glazing bar design & 3- Method of window openings' & replaced with windows to be UPVC Double Glazed sash Georgian style as existing.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.
- b. **BC/CS/2009/1 – Land to the South of Broom, Broom Road, Stanford.**
Proposed scheme for Details of landscaping pursuant to condition 37 of planning permission 28/2008.

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

c. **08/02412/FULL – The Rising Sun, Sun Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Demolition of existing public house to facilitate the erection of part two and part one storey building comprising of no.12 one & two bedroom temporary family dwellings (Use Class C2) with associated landscaping & parking.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this application on the grounds of height, size and general bulk of the development. The entrance onto the street, and cars waiting to enter the property would be dangerous. The noise would also cause a disturbance. The two storey entrance archway should not be attached to the detached cottage, No 42 on the map as it is a grade II listed building.

d. **09/00018/FULL – 58 Windermere Drive, Biggleswade.**

Full: Single storey side extension for use as a Granny Annexe following demolition of existing garage.

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. **09/00032/FULL – Land at Bonds Lane and Foundry Lane, Biggleswade.**

Full: Demolition of existing vacant warehouse and derelict buildings and erection of mixed development comprising of 39 residential apartments and 801sqm of commercial space combined use class A1 to A3.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this application on the grounds that whilst it is acknowledged that Bonds Lane needs to be re-developed, it was felt that a better design would be more beneficial. The Town Council asked for the planning application to be called in.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30 November 2008
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30 November 2008

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Biggleswade History Society**

Council considered a request from Biggleswade History Society asking that they are given copies of unspecified documents relating to properties in Biggleswade. They also state that the documents should be lodged with Bedford & Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS) to ensure that they are kept under archival conditions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the History Society be contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss their request.

b. **CCTV Camera Deployment Guidelines**

Council considered the CCTV Camera Deployment Guidelines, a copy of which was attached to the agenda.

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

c. **Farewell Reception for Bedfordshire Town & Parish Councils**

Members considered correspondence received from Bedfordshire County Council, inviting a representative from Town Council to attend a Farewell Reception to be held at Council Suite, County Hall, on Tuesday 10 March.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Peter Woodward attend the Farewell Reception.

d. **Biggleswade Community Liaison Forum proposals**

Members considered a proposal received from The Chairman of Biggleswade Community Forum requesting the use of funding that was set aside from the former Liaison Forum meeting.

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

e. **Application for a 100 hours pharmacy at Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd, Bells Brook, Biggleswade**

Members considered correspondence received from Bedfordshire PCT informing Council that Sainsbury's Supermarket, Bells Brook, Biggleswade, have applied to open a 100 hours pharmacy.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no objection.

f. **Traffic calming measures for Eagle Farm Road**

Members considered correspondence from a Biggleswade resident, who has contacted Highways department requesting the implementation of Traffic calming measures and speed restrictions in Eagle Farm Road, for which the road is already registered. The resident has asked that Council support this request.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council support the request for the speed restrictions only.

g. **Biggleswade Town Football Club application for Financial Assistance 2009**

Members considered a grant application received from Biggleswade Town FC. The application for a grant came before the Planning Committee on 8 July 2008. The Club would like Town Council to reconsider their request for Financial Assistance.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council agreed that £100 be granted and that a firm letter be written to inform them that in future grants are only considered in March, and that they must follow correct procedure.

12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service**

Members received correspondence informing Council of the introduction by Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority, of a draft Community Risk Management Plan covering period 2009 – 2012 and consists of six key proposals.

A Public Consultation began on 1 December and will finish on 23 February, this is vitally important to help shape the future Service Priorities.

They welcome all feedback on their proposals and a copy of the draft Summary Plan Questionnaire is available to download from their website: www.bedsfire.com.

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

b. **Bedfordshire County Council launch of improved recycling programme**

Members received correspondence from Bedfordshire County Council informing Council of improved recycling programme. Residents will now be able to recycle: Paper and Cardboard Carton, All Plastic Food Packaging, Metal Packaging and Worn out Textiles.

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

c. **The County Council of Bedfordshire – Public Path Diversion Order 2009**

Members received notification from Bedfordshire County Council informing Council of Public Path Diversion order affecting Part of Bridleway no 11 in Biggleswade. The public notice appeared in the Biggleswade Chronicle on 9 January.

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

d. Freedom of Information working document

Council received a copy of the Town Councils recently completed Freedom of Information working document.

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

e. Planning Decisions

Council Decision

- | | | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| i. 08/01733/FULL – Land South West of Albone Way. | REFUSED | No objection |
| ii. 08/02084/FULL – 4 Primrose Close. | APPROVED | No objection |

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

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

