

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 3
MARCH 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. Cllr R Skinner
Rob McGregor – Works Manager
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Also present – Cllr P Rook, Cllr P Vickers

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a Eagle Farm Road

Members were asked to consider a letter from a resident of Eagle Farm Road regarding the proposed re-sighting of the M.U.G.A.

It was **Recommended** that the MUGA be moved to the agreed position according to the planning approval from Mid Beds District Council.

b Wildflower Meadow

Members were asked to consider a full survey being carried out on the Wild Flower Meadow at a cost of £750.00 ex vat to enable the meadow to be put forward for County Wildlife Status. This survey would be carried out in April and June 2009. A full survey of this site has never been carried out.

It was **Recommended** that the full survey should be carried out.

c Fairfield Recreation Ground Pavilion

Members were asked to consider obtaining quotations to improve the facilities in Fairfield Cricket Pavilion, to include the toilets, shower blocks and kitchen.

It was **Recommended** that quotations be obtained for the above works and that Mr McGregor would discuss funding at his forthcoming meeting with MBDC regarding the use of 106 contributions.

d Fairfield Recreation Ground and Biggleswade Common

At a meeting of the Public Land and Open Space Committee on the 12th August Cllr Vickers asked that this item be placed on the Agenda.

It was **Recommended** that a letter be sent to Fen Reeves to advise them that the Town Council would like to take possession of the agreed plot of land from the 1st of April 2010 and that provision be made in the 2010 – 2011 budgets for improvements to the site.

e Franklin Recreation Ground

The Town Council has been receiving complaints on a regular basis regarding broken glass at the weekends when children attend the park. Bedfordshire Police are notified of these problems but the problems are ongoing.

Cllr Wilson has suggested that the Town Council operate an incident report book for the site, also the Works Manager would like to suggest that the site be checked on Saturday mornings until the problem can be resolved.

It was **Recommended** that the Town Council staff would monitor the area on Saturday mornings, a log book would be set up within the office and the Dog Warden would be asked to patrol the area. The Committee also asked that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police with regard to lack of policing in Biggleswade, not only at Franklins Recreation Ground but other sites under the Town Councils control.

f Request from a Biggleswade Resident

Members were asked to consider a request from a Biggleswade resident requesting that a piece of land is set aside for a dog park.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this request and advise the resident that we are fortunate to have Biggleswade Common as it provides adequate area for dogs to be exercised and consequently the Council does not consider a dog park to be necessary at this time.

g Biggleswade Common Draft Constitution.

Members were asked to consider a letter received from Woodfine Solicitors regarding a proposed draft constitution for Biggleswade Common.

As the Town Council hold common rights they have been invited to attend a meeting when an explanation of the constitution will be given and a vote taken as to its adoption.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to the proposed draft constitution and that a letter be sent to Woodfine Solicitors, advising that the Council has considered the implications of the Constitution and see no need for it to be adopted.

h Furzenhall Residents Association

Town Council had received correspondence from Furzenhall Residents Association requesting permission to attach a commercially commissioned, weatherproof sign (probably A3 size) on the fence of the 'Triangle' play area in Furzenhall Road. The purpose of the sign would be to explain to the children that they are trying to improve the site.

It was **Recommended** that the Town Council would respond to the above request and advise the Residents Association that they need to contact MBDC, to enable them to gain permission for the sign to be erected.

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the Public Open Session.

