

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 MARCH 2009 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr G Wilson (Chair), Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr D Smith, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Rook, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr Ms R Kerfoot
Rob McGregor – Works Manager
Juliet Brookes – Accounts Assistant
Members of the Public - 2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Grayston.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests in any agenda item -

(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.
Cllr R Skinner registered a Personal interest in item 6i as listed on the agenda.
Cllr Mrs R Forbes registered a Personal interest in item 6b as listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. 09/00263/FULL- Land rear of 5 Edward Road, Biggleswade

Full: Erection of 2 bed Chalet Bungalow.

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.

b. BC/CM/2009/9 - Golf Driving Range, Hills Lane, Biggleswade

To extend an existing bunded structure with associated woodland planting, utilising inert material.

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

c. 09/00404/FULL – 82 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade

Full: Single store extensions to Side, Front and Rear.

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.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Biggleswade Rail Station – Access improvement works**

Members considered correspondence received from Bedfordshire Highways, Amey, informing Council of planned access improvement works for Biggleswade Rail Station. Following recent consultations, Bedfordshire County Council has developed a scheme to provide improved pedestrian and bus user access to Biggleswade Rail Station that will provide improved access for pedestrians and improved waiting facilities for bus passengers. Better signage to increase awareness of the Main Car Park and a sign to the town centre from the station is also planned. They have provided a map for information. Comments need to be submitted on 18 March.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application but would like the double yellow lines reduced along Station Road to allow more parking for vehicles.

6. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning Decisions**

Council Decision

i. 08/02369/ADV – Bingo Hall, Station Road, Biggleswade REFUSED Object

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

b. **Biggleswade History Society Newsletter**

Town Council received a copy of the latest Biggleswade History Society Newsletter.

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

c. **Mid Bedfordshire District Council (Wharf Mews, Biggleswade) – Tree Preservation Order no 1. 2009**

Members received correspondence from Mid Beds District Council informing of a Tree Preservation Order made by them on 4 March 2009, for trees at Wharf Mews, Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted but Cllr Mrs Jane Lawrence asked whether the Town Council could check that the trees within the grounds at Beaumont Nursery Home and the Lime Trees at the front of the church are included in the above Tree Preservation Order.

d. **Mid Bedfordshire District Council (Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade) – Tree Preservation Order no 2. 2009**

Members received correspondence received from Mid Beds District Council informing of a Tree Preservation Order made by them on 4 March 2009, for trees at Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade.

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

e. **Mobile Libraries and Library Link Services**

Members received correspondence from Bedfordshire County Council informing Council of changes planned to the routes of the Mobile Libraries and Library Link Services with effect from Monday 6 April 2009.

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

f. **Submission of the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies**

Members received correspondence from Mid Beds District Council informing Council that the above document has been submitted to the Secretary of State.

The document sets out the Council's policies for development in the District, including the strategy for development, the broad locations for the proposed growth and the associated environmental and social considerations. It also provides a policy framework against which decisions on planning applications will be made.

A copy was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be noted and that the Town Council write to the District Council with the same initiative of the Essex County stand.

g. **East West Rail – Central Section Operating Case Consultation**

Members received correspondence informing Council of a consultation that is currently being carried out by the East West Rail Consortium who are promoting the reinstatement of train services between Oxford and Cambridge via Milton Keynes. Progress has been made at the eastern and western ends but the consultation is now looking at the best options for the central section, which affects Bedfordshire. The Central Section consultation document and supporting letter can be found on their website at: <http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/reports>. This is not a Mid Beds Council consultation although the Council will be responding. Responses should be sent to the contact and address given in the letter on the website by 31 March 2009.

A copy was attached to the agenda as well a copy of the Local Development Framework Newsletter February 2009.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council supports the above consultation.

h. **Possible Wind Farm – Public Meeting**

Members received correspondence from Langford Parish Council informing that there will be a public meeting in Langford Village Hall on Saturday 28 March 2009 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm to give the people of Langford an opportunity to express their views on the proposed Wind Farm.

Members are invited to attend.

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

i. **Updating the Mid Beds Cycle Route Mapping Project (2001)**

Town Council were advised that the above document is currently being updated by Sustrans in conjunction with Mid Bed District Council and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The document is now in need of review to take account of existing and projected changes in the district and to provide an up-to-date, comprehensive and aspirational cycle network for Mid Bedfordshire over the next 20 years.

A copy is available to view in the Town Council Office; comments are welcome and should be submitted by Tuesday 31 March at the latest, to BRCC Cardington office

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council Support this project.

7. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A member of the public spoke about the importance of the Trees to the rear of Beaumont Park Nursing Home and that they should have a tree preservation order made on them. The Oak tree is amongst the 5 best trees in Biggleswade.

He then went on to say that he agreed with the reinstatement of the Rail service between Oxford and Cambridge.