

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JULY 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 T Woodward, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr R Skinner
Rob McGregor – Works Manager/Deputy Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administration Assistant

Also Present: Mr P Rook

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Grayston and Cllr D Albone

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) **Prejudicial interests in any agenda item** - there were no prejudicial interests declared.

(b) **Personal interests in any agenda item** - Cllr PF Vickers registered an interest as a member of the Central Bedfordshire Management Development Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. 09/01184/FULL – 8 Derwent Avenue, Biggleswade.

Full: Conservatory to 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 CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the 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. Review of Electoral Arrangements – Central Bedfordshire Council

Members considered correspondence received from CBC to inform Council that The Boundary Committee for England have announced that they will start a review of the electoral arrangements of Central Bedfordshire on 4 August 2009.

The Chairman of The Boundary Committee will be attending Priory House on Monday 20 July 2009 to make a presentation about the process that will be followed in the conduct of the review. The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at 6pm and should finish by 7pm.

Councillors who wish to attend this meeting, were asked to make staff at Town Council Offices aware, so that the information can be relayed to the appropriate person at Central Bedfordshire Council. Cllrs Rex Skinner and Mrs R Forbes volunteered to attend.

Cllr Peter Vickers felt that 2 wards with 2 Councillors each would be more appropriate than 4 wards with 1 Councillor each, as it was at the June election.

b. Girlguiding UK Centenary – Biggleswade District

Members considered correspondence received from Girlguiding UK informing Council that they will be launching their centenary on 6 September 2009 and celebrations will continue until 20 October 2010.

The County President has expressed a desire for each District in Bedfordshire to have a floral display in a prominent place. As Biggleswade is the largest district in the East Beds Division they would like to have a display somewhere in the town and enquired whether they could use the flower beds outside Stratton House Hotel.

Clr Mrs Jane Lawrence said she had noticed that the plants outside Stratton House Hotel had all died and asked if there was problem with the soil.

Rob McGregor replied he suspected that the plants had been poisoned but he would be having the soil tested to confirm whether this is the case.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission in principal for the floral display but explain that the soil may have been poisoned and required testing before the project could go ahead.

c. Appeal by F D O'Dell & Sons re site at Cow Close, Langford Road, Biggleswade

Correspondence has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the planning application for the removal of condition 4 (restriction on HGV movements) attached to planning permission 22/2003 granted 16.09.2003, as varied by planning permission 13/2006 granted 13.04.06 at the above location was refused by Bedfordshire County Council on 11 December 2008. The applicant has now exercised his right of appeal against the decision, and has asked for a hearing to be held. The date and venue has yet to be arranged. Members are invited to make comments that must be submitted by **22 July 2009**.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY OBJECT** to this application as it would mean more heavy goods vehicles travelling through Biggleswade, and there are concerns about the suitability of the transport system. A letter is to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate stating the same and that a total number limit should be imposed on H.G.Vs with no access to the site via the Town.

Biggleswade 59th Annual Sports Meeting – 11 July 2009

Members received correspondence from Biggleswade Sports to advise that they plan to hold their 59th Annual Sports Meeting on Saturday 11 July and to request a donation to their Prize Fund, expenses and insurance that they have to take out.

They have listed the expenses so far (copy attached)

It was **RESOLVED** that a donation of £100 be granted and Biggleswade Sports would be advised that in future they would need to apply for a grant at the correct time.

e. Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit

- i. Members reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit. A copy of the work programme for 2009/2010 was attached to the agenda.

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

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning decisions

Council decision

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|---------------|
| i. | 09/00786/FULL – The Old Maltings, Church Street | APPROVED | No objections |
| ii. | 09/00527/CC - SVO House, Normandy Lane | WITHDRAWN | No objections |

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|---|--|
| iii. 09/00785/LDCP – 94 Dells Lane | LAWFUL DEV GRANTED Decision notice only rec,d |
| iv 09/00645/ADV – Carpetright PLC, Homebase | ADVERTISEMENT CONSENT GRANTED No objections |
| v. 09/00711/LB – 5 Rose Lane | LISTED BUILDING CONSENT No objections |
| vi. 09/00759/FULL – 82 Lawrence Road | APPROVED No objections |

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

b. Thank you letter from Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Members received correspondence from RNLI thanking Town Council for the permission granted for them to carry out their collection in Biggleswade Market Square that took place on 27 June, where they raised £430.30, which will go towards supporting the Volunteer Lifeboat crews

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

c. Biggleswade History Society

Members received a copy of Biggleswade History Society Newsletter.

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

d. Core Strategy and Development Management Policies

Members received correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding Regulation 13 (5) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

The above document was published on the 13 October 2008. The Core Strategy sets out the overall strategy for development and policy framework for other DPD,s The Development Management Policies sets out the policies against which planning applications will be determined.

The Planning Inspectorate is currently examining the document and hearing sessions began on 23 June 2009 and will finish on 9 July 2009.

A schedule of Local Plan: First Review policies to be superseded by the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies was omitted from the document in error and is therefore available to comment on. Any comments should be made via email to: idf@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or in writing by midday Monday 17 August.

The document can be viewed and downloaded on the Council website: [:www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk). It can also be viewed at Council Offices in Chicksands and the PoP's in Biggleswade and Ampthill.

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

7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

The Mayor informed Members that Henry Harris had donated £100 for the Mayor's Charity Fund and that a thank you letter would be sent.

