

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OFF STREET CAR PARKING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2009 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr D Lawrence (Chair), Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr D Smith Cllr P Rook
Cllr Mrs W Smith.
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Colin Keeble – Market Superintendant

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs W Smith be appointed to the office of Vice Chair of the Off Street Car Park Committee for the period 2009/2010.

5. INVITED SPEAKER

Angela Simmons from AboutMyArea spoke to Members about raising the profile of the Farmers Market and the Saturday Market by way of advertising.

They supply Community Information and it is their intention to become a primary source, all information received goes immediately onto the website. Clubs and Community Groups are not charged to advertise. So far 300 organisations have registered to receive a Regular Newsletter in SG18 and SG19 area and in October there were over 600 visits to their website. There is also a free 'Whats on Calender' in addition to advertising.

Cllr Mrs W Smith asked how long the company had been in existence, and was told that SG19 and PE19 area advertising had started in October 2006 and SG18 area July 2009.

Cllr Mrs W Smith asked how many businesses in SG18 had advertised. Ms Simmons replied that between SG18 and SG19 there were about 18 at the moment combined.

Cllr G Wilson asked how the company is funded. Ms Simmons said that they buy the right to promote certain postcodes.

It was **AGREED** to take this proposal to full Council specifically regarding advertising the Markets in Biggleswade.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Market

i. Promotion of the Market – this item was discussed in item 5.

ii. Purchase of new equipment – the market stalls need new backs and covers. Quotes are to be obtained before the precept in January.

It was suggested that an amount should be in the budget next year as well as a renewal fund for further/future requirements.

b. Budgets

Members considered budgets for 2010/2011.

To cover the cost of negotiating a 10 year lease with the Solicitors for Rose Lane Car Park, an amount will need to be added into the budget figures.

The Xmas Lights will also need to be added into the Budget figures.

If there is any money over, this will be earmarked for future CCTV projects.

7. Parking

i. Rob McGregor gave a report on progress Management.

The professional fees for policing the Car Parks is £9850.00 p.a. and it was expected that tickets issued would offset these costs, but only £1995.00 has been collected so far.

Town Council will ask the Contractor why the figures are not balancing.

Whilst the scheme has been successful in some areas, Rose Lane Car Park has suffered.

ii. Negotiations with Lord of the Manor and Fen Reeves – this item is ongoing.

iii. Proposal for integrated on and off street management to submit to Central Bedfordshire – details were attached to the agenda.

The proposal was **APPROVED** by the Committee and subject to **RATIFICATION** by Full Council in January 2010, will be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council.

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Update from TCP

Council has received monitoring figures from TCP and a copy was attached to the agenda.

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

b. Update on proposed rent increase for Dan Albone Car Park

Correspondence was received from Stimpsons Eves to update members regarding the proposed rent increase for Dan Albone Car Park, and a copy attached to the agenda.

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

9. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

10. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.