

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 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 Smith, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr P Vickers,  
Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Albone, Cllr P Rook  
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk  
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant  
Sue Crowther - Administration Assistant

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr D Lawrence  
Cllr R Skinner and Cllr P Woodward

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

The Town Mayor asked all Cllrs to remain behind after the meeting as new mandate forms need to be  
signed for the Bank.

**4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**a. CB/09/06423/FULL – 52A High Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Change of use of first floor from residential flat (C3) to hair & beauty treatment rooms (A1).

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

**b. CB/09/06135/FULL – Warehouse, Foundry Lane, Biggleswade.**

Full: Change of use from B2 to Sui Generis for a car wash.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** as before as this application is well overdue.

**c. CB/09/06413/FULL – 48B Shortmead Street, Biggleswade.**

Full: Installation of biomass boiler (retrospective).

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

**5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

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

Correspondence was received from Bedfordshire PCT informing Council that they have received an  
application for 100 hr pharmacy at Sainsbury's Supermarket, Biggleswade, and Members are invited  
to comment.

This item was previously considered by Council in January 2009, when no objection was raised.

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

**b. Request from Biggleswade Sports**

Members received correspondence from Biggleswade Sports requesting permission to erect four portable toilets on Dan Albone Car Park on the day of their proposed Cross Country Race in February or March 2010. They have also requested permission to erect two small marquees on the grass area for competitors to change in.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to these requests.

**c. Request from RNLI**

The RNLI has requested permission to hold a Flag Day in Biggleswade Market Square on 19 June 2010. The monies collected will go towards supporting the Volunteer Lifeboat Crews to save lives at sea.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this request.

**d. Biggleswade Town Bowls Club**

**i. Heating at the Pavilion**

Correspondence has been received from Biggleswade Town Bowls Club discussed the subject of heating at the Pavilion- Clubhouse facilities used by the Bowls Club. Once the really bad weather arrives with the possibility of frost etc, they anticipate that Town Council would wish them to set the heaters when they leave the building at an agreed temperature. They are seeking confirmation of the temperature agreed in order for them to make this available to members of the Management Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this request.

**ii. Internal decoration of Clubroom and other areas**

Biggleswade Town Bowls Club have informed Council that they have accepted a quotation for the above works to be carried out, is it anticipated between 16 January and 14 February 2010 and will take approximately 2 weeks. The contractor would like access from about 8am (not weekends) and would like to park his vehicle in the top end car park. They are requesting that the alarm be de-activated and re-set at the end of the day. If this is agreeable to Members they are suggesting that actual dates etc could be arranged with Town Council staff nearer the time.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this request

**e. Hackney Carriage Stands – Central Bedfordshire**

Central Bedfordshire Council has written to Town Council regarding licensing Hackney Carriage stands (taxi ranks) within Central Bedfordshire. There may be areas where hackney carriage stands would be extremely useful and heavily used, but where no provision has been made in the past. This can lead to drivers creating unofficial ranks in areas of high demand. Before a hackney carriage stand can be created, the consent of the highway authority must be obtained and the matter subject to public consultation and will include Town Council. In the first instance they would like to know Members thoughts as to whether the provision of hackney carriage stand would be useful in Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire Council informing that a taxi rank could be accommodated in the centre of Biggleswade station Car park (2 spaces), but Town Council would like clarification of regulations for hiring of mini cabs.

f. **Electoral Review of Central Bedfordshire Council**

Central Bedfordshire Council has written to Council informing that stage one of the six-stage process of the review has been completed and the Boundary Committee has decided on a council size of 59.

Further consultation, which will map out the number and boundaries of the electoral wards for the authority has now begun and ends on 11 January 2010. They have provided a copy of the draft proposals attached to this agenda and have asked for Members comments before 7 January 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be written to Central Bedfordshire Council to inform them that while Town Council agree to proposals for Biggleswade 2 wards 4 Councillors, feel that they cannot comment on the remainder of Bedfordshire.

g. **Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group**

Due to a misunderstanding at the Council meeting held on 22 September 2009 when the Town Plan Steering Group was granted the sum of £338, a further £2352 is requested by the group.

It was **RESOLVED** that this final contribution be **GRANTED**

6. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Biggleswade History Society Newsletter**

Town Council has received a copy of Biggleswade History Society Newsletter and a copy was attached to the agenda.

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

7. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

8. **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.