

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 APRIL 2010 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 S Watkins, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr P Rook
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Sam Vernon – Biggleswade Chronicle

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr T Woodward

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) **Prejudicial interests in any agenda item** - Cllrs R Skinner, Mrs R Forbes and G Wilson declared an interest in item 9a (conf item) as listed on the agenda.

(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. CB/10/00788/SE73 – Little Acre, Langford Road, Biggleswade.

Section 73: Variation of condition 3 on planning application 04/01113/FULL dated 28/10/04 to allow applicants grandparents to live on site.

It was **RESOLVED** to raise **NO OBJECTION** to this application, as long as occupants are within that one family and remains at **NO MORE** than 2 caravans.

b. CB/10/01009/ADV – 8-10 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade

Advertisement Consent: 2no. fascia signs externally illuminated with overhead trough lighting.

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

c. CB/10/01025/FULL – Ivel House, Mill Lane, Biggleswade.

Full: Erection of 2no. covered play area/canopy's, 1 to replace an existing awning.

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

d. CB/10/00867/FULL – 11 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Full: Two storey & single storey rear extension.

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.

e. **CB/10/011118/FULL – 14 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Two storey rear extension & conservatory.

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.

f. **CB/10/01070/FULL – 105 Potton Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Loft conversion with dormer windows to front, rear & side.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application **PROVIDED** the neighbours are consulted regarding the **dormer window to side** 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. **Biggleswade Chamber of Trade**

Members considered correspondence from Biggleswade Chamber of Trade to confirm that at the next meeting of the Chamber of Trade Executive proposes to submit a resolution to the effect that 'the Chamber should promote the formation of an independent group to take full responsibility for the Christmas Lights and to hand over to such body the related finals and assets that the Chamber currently holds in relation to the Biggleswade Christmas Lights'

They seek Council's support, in principle, for a formation of such an independent group.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **FULLY SUPPORT** the formation of an independent group.

b. **Biggleswade Town Cricket Club**

Biggleswade Cricket Club has written to Council regarding the Fairfield Memorial Sports Ground, where their home games are played.

On Friday 19 March 2010, two of their members witnessed a gathering of approximately 50 juveniles, several with bottles of drink and possibly in a drunken state, removing the poles and rope around the main playing area and damaging it by walking on it as it had been treated earlier in the day by the Club groundsmen.

The Clubs financial income comes mainly from its members and does not have the finance available to rectify vandalism.

Although the problems could have been far worse, these individuals are breaking the law and the Club is urging for action to be put in place to prevent future problems.

It was **RESOLVED** that while Town Council have provided a lot of financial support, and sympathise with the Club, it really is a Police matter and suggested that perhaps the Biggleswade Chronicle could ask members of the public to ring the Police if they witness anything.

The Town Clerk will write to the Police and advise them of current and recurring problems that are happening within Biggleswade.

c. **Biggleswade Bowls Club**

Biggleswade Bowls Club supplied a list of fixture dates for Council approval.

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

d. Request from Jamie Harris

Jamie Harris has written in to Council to request permission to operate rides in Market Square, as follows:

To hire a small part of White Hart Car Park for one small children's ride and a bouncy castle on the following dates: Saturday 24 April and Saturday 1 May 2010. Jamie apologises for the late application.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be **AGEEED** and noted.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Biggleswade History Society Newsletter – March 2010

Biggleswade History Society has provided Council with the March 2010 edition of their newsletter, and a copy is attached to this agenda.

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

b. Application for a 100 hour pharmacy at Sainsbury's Supermarket, Bells Brook, Biggleswade

Bedfordshire PCT has written to Council to inform that the above application meets the requirements of the Regulations, and was approved by the Panel subject to the Bedfordshire Policy and Procedure for Monitoring Pharmacies that open for 100hrs.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council welcome this application and that this be noted.

c. Gas Mains replacement works

UK National Grid have written to Council informing of Gas Mains replacement works that is due to start in Biggleswade. In partnership with Morrison Utility Services, National Grid will be upgrading 7.5kms of gas mains over the next 12 months.

Work will start in April and in a rolling programme in the following roads: London Road, Holme Court Avenue, Elm Road, Courtlands Drive, Sabel Close, The Dells, Dells Lane Coppice Mead, Coopers Close, Mead End, Oak Crescent and Playfield Close.

Work is due to start on 6 April in London Road and Holme Court Avenue. It will be necessary to install temporary traffic lights at the junction of London Road, Drive Road and Eagle Farm Road from 6 April for some three weeks.

It will be necessary to close the junction of Holme Court Avenue and London Road from 12 April for four weeks. Drivers will be diverted via Kitelands Road. Residents have been informed.

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

d. Land East of, Saxon Drive, Biggleswade

Central Bedfordshire Council has confirmed receipt of the above outline planning application: Health Centre, sports pitches, changing facilities with car parking, relocation of allotments, travelling show people site, woodland, meadowland and children's play area.

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

e. **Waiting restrictions – Dells Lane, Mead End, Broadmead and Coppice Mead, Biggleswade**

Central Bedfordshire Council has contacted Council to inform that the above no waiting restrictions will be implemented and a traffic regulation order will be made shortly.

Amey also wrote to Council to inform that they will be painting road markings on 13 April for the parking restrictions, and implementing the order on 19 April 2010.

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

f. **Chambers Way – Play Area**

A plan has been received from Siobhan Vincent at Central Bedfordshire Council, showing the Play Area currently under construction at Chambers Way, Biggleswade.

Cllr P Vickers has asked Central Bedfordshire Council that in the interest of good public relations, could they please inform Town Council of any developments in Biggleswade.

7. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions that are pertaining to matters listed on this Agenda.

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.