

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 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 T Woodward, 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
PC Ian Wilson – Bedfordshire Constabulary
Jemma McLean - BRCC
Members of the Public – 4

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests – There were no prejudicial interests declared.

(a) Personal Interests

Cllrs P F Vickers registered an interest as members of the Central Bedfordshire Management Development Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda and in item 11a (grants) – Biggleswade Sea Cadets and St Andrews Parish Church.

Cllr R Skinner registered an interest in item 11a (grants) as listed on the agenda – Ivel Sprinter, The New Horizon Club, Biggleswade History Society, Biggleswade Twinning Association

Cllr S Grayston registered an interest in item 11a (grants) – Biggleswade and District Pensioners

Cllr Mrs W Smith registered an interest in item 11a (grants) – Rainbow Pre-School, St Andrews Church and Biggleswade Sea Cadets

Cllr P Rook declared an interest in item 11a (grants) – Ivel Stroke Club

Cllr D Smith declared an interest in item 11a (grants) – Biggleswade Sea Cadets

Cllr Mrs R Forbes declared an interest in item 11a (grants) – Biggleswade History Society, Biggleswade Gospel singers, Biggleswade Twinning Association

Cllr G Wilson declared in interest in item 11a (grants) – Biggleswade Twinning Association

Cllr T Woodward declared an interest in item 11a (grants) – Biggleswade Gang Show, Biggleswade Rugby and Associated Clubs, St Andrews Church Holiday Club, Bedfordshire Scouting and in item 11d as listed on the agenda.

Cllr S Watkins registered an interest in item 11a (grants) – Monday Night Youth Club

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr G Wilson gave a brief overview of the Twinning 10th Anniversary celebrations taking place from 30 April – 3 May 2010.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

5. **BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

PC Ian Wilson ran through the crime figures for March and advised that they can be viewed on the website.

There had been an increase in burglaries, although one man had been remanded and sent back to prison, and it is thought that he was connected with these burglaries.

Someone has been stabbed with a sharp object in the neck, near Lincoln Crescent and the CID is investigating.

Theft from motor vehicles had increased slightly, and anti-social behaviour had also increased slightly with the lighter nights. There had been some nuisance motor bikes, with a few bikes being seized.

The next Community Safety Forum Meeting is due to be held on 18 May. In regards to Dan Albone Car Park, the priority from the last 2 meetings was a long term deterrent for the anti-social activities and the Police are doing all they can.

Cllr G Wilson asked if there had been any progress from the Cricket Club patrol. PC Wilson said that the patrols hadn't seen any youths, just lots of litter and bottles.

Cllr Wilson said that he is appalled that 'Pizza Town' alcohol licence has been approved by the Police and Licensing authorities. PC Wilson replied that there is no evidence to not approve, it is only with purchase of an order.

Cllr Mrs W Smith asked if there are no yellow lines or parking restrictions, such as in Eagle Farm Road, can the police do anything about ad-hoc parking. PC Wilson replied the police can only do something if the parking causes a hazard, such as parking a bend obscuring visibility.

Cllr Jane Lawrence told PC Wilson about cars speeding and overtaking in Shortmead Street, particularly a small hatchback. PC Wilson said he will carry out checks in the area.

6. **INVITED SPEAKER- Jemma McLean - BRCC**

Jemma updated Town Council on the Town Plan Action Plan and has provided a copy of the 3rd draft for Councillors to discuss.

It was **RESOLVED** to discuss the Town Plan Action Plan in more detail at a scheduled meeting.

7. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 March 2010 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Finance and General Purpose meeting held on 23 March 2010 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 13 April 2010 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 March 2010 - none
- b. Minutes of the Finance and General Purpose meeting held on 23 March 2010 - none
- c. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 13 April 2010 - none

d. **Representation against a Variation of a Premises Licence Application for – Pizza Town, Biggleswade**

Central Bedfordshire Council has acknowledged receipt of Town Council's objection to the above Variation of a Premises Licence Application and to inform that the objection does not meet the required criteria.

The Police have stipulated certain conditions be attached to the licence and the applicant has agreed to these. A copy is attached to this agenda.

Cllr D Albone pointed out to Members that the letter from CBC states that Town Council are not allowed to object as a Council, only on behalf of another group, and that should be taken into account for future applications of this nature.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **CB/10/01210/ADV – 41 High Street, Biggleswade.**

Advertisement Consent: 1 x Internally illuminated folded aluminium fascia with fret cut text & logo (only edges of text & logo illuminated) 1 x Internally illuminated folded aluminium projecting sign with fret cut text & logo (only edges of text & logo illuminated).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as they do not allow internally illuminated signs in Biggleswade.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 March 2010
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 March 2010

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Grants/Donations**

- i. Members considered applications for Community Grants and it was **RESOLVED** that the following grants be made:

1.	Biggleswade Amateur Theatrical Society	£250
2.	Bedfordshire Pilgrims (22 nd World Jamboree)	£300
3.	Biggleswade Sea Cadets	£300
4.	Mayflower Social Centre	£250
5.	St Andrews Church Holiday Club	£250
6.	Biggleswade United Youth Football Club	NIL
7.	7 th Biggleswade Brownies Pack	£200
8.	4 th Biggleswade Brownies Pack	£200
9.	Monday Youth Club	£300
10.	East Beds Concert Band	£300
11.	Ivel Stroke Club	£200
12.	Friends of Abbotsbury	£250
13.	Keech Hospice Care for Adults and Children	£500
14.	Biggleswade Rugby & Associated Clubs	£250
15.	Bedfordshire Scouting (Chelsea Duffin)	£100
16.	Vitalise	£250
17.	Mid Bed Citizen Advice Bureau	NIL
18.	Kestrel Archery Club	£200
19.	Youth @ BPC (Biggleswade Pentecostal Church)	£180
20.	Biggleswade History Society	£150

21.	Biggleswade Library	£250
22.	3 rd Biggleswade (Methodist) Brownies	£100
23.	Biggleswade Gospel Singers	£150
24.	Biggleswade & District Handicapped Swimming Club	£300
25.	Biggleswade Sports	£300
26.	Brigham Pre-School and the Den	£400
27.	Biggleswade & District Pensioners	£200
28.	Link-a-ride	£250
29.	Biggleswade First Aid Club	£325
30.	Biggles FM	£600
31.	The New Horizon Club	£200
32.	Biggleswade Gang Show	£300
33.	Biggleswade Twinning Association	NIL
34.	Rainbow Pre-School	£500
35.	St Andrews Church	£250
36.	Mars Cub Pack	£200

- ii Members considered a request from Biggleswade Town Cricket Club asking Council to sponsor match balls as in previous years at a cost of £10 per game.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council would sponsor 5 match balls at a cost of £10 per game.

b. Skills Event in Biggleswade

Central Bedfordshire Council is enquiring if the Town Council would hold a skills event in Biggleswade. Town Council would have to find a venue, provide food for exhibitors, set the venue up on the day, be present on the day, and carry out all the administration and advertising for the event. CBC would offer up to £2,000 to cover the event.

It was **RESOLVED** that Central Bedfordshire Council should oversee this event.

c. Letter from a resident of Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade

Members considered a letter from an Eagle Farm Road resident to complain about the ongoing and increasing problem of cars parking on the road when the football pitches are in use at the weekends.

- On Saturday 27 March vehicles were parked along the entire length of the road, the only gaps were where there are dropped kerbs and each of those parked vehicles were infringing on their extremities. The gentleman had a delivery of slate due that day, but no delivery point was available, and has therefore has had to reschedule for another time.

The resident has attended Council meetings when the pitches have been discussed, and residents were assured that no extra vehicular traffic would be caused by these facilities as access and parking is on the far side of the pitches where the changing rooms are situated.

A copy is attached to this agenda for Members to consider the problems experienced by the residents of Eagle Farm Road.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council take no further action, but that a letter be written to re-iterate the measures that have been taken to try to alleviate the problems.

d. Application to fell one Sycamore tree at 7 Mill Close, Biggleswade

Members considered correspondence has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council to inform Council that they have received an application to fell one Sycamore tree at 7 Mill Close, as it is causing excessive shading to the house and potential problems to drains. The property is within the Biggleswade Conservation Area.

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

e. Request for an automatic barrier on Dan Albone car park

Town Council has received a petition from the residents of Royal Oak Close requesting that an automatic barrier be installed at Dan Albone car park.

Over the last couple of years the anti-social behaviour has become a lot worse. While the police are helping as best they can, a preventative measure is needed.

The issues are as follows:

- Dangerous driving, cars driving without headlights at night, donuts
- Speed of cars entering and leaving the car park
- A big increase in the amount of litter
- General noise, e.g. music, shouting, beeping, skidding, revving up late into the night

A copy of the petition and covering letter are attached to this agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that as the land is owned by the Fen Reeves, there is nothing Town Council can do.

It is licensed as a 24hrs car park, but Council has applied for the Alcohol Free Zone to be extended.

The matter should be referred to PC Ian Wilson as it is a Police matter.

f. Request from Cozy Tours

Cozy Tours has written to Town Council to ask if they could promote their business by way of exhibiting a 14 metre long Tour Coach, which is the pride of the fleet, in the Market Square on a Saturday for a few hours. They will be displaying all their destinations and giving out brochures.

It was **RESOLVED** to **REFUSE** permission for this request, as it is felt that the size of the coach is impractical and would be far too large to display in the Market Square.

g. Request for an Italian Market

Simon Faro, Director of Italia in Piazza, has requested to stage an Italian Market in the Market Square on Friday 9 July 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** that this request be granted.

h. The Fen Reeves of Biggleswade Common

The Annual General Meeting of the Common Right Holders of Biggleswade Common will be held at 6 Bedford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Wednesday 2 June 2010 at 5.30pm. Members are invited to attend and vote and must be registered with Central Bedfordshire Council Orders and Commons, PO Box 1395, Bedford MK42 5AN and on The Fen Reeves Register currently held by the Head Reeve.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk, Cllr D Lawrence and Cllr G Wilson attend this Annual General Meeting on 2 June 2010.

i. Request from a Biggleswade resident for signs to be erected at Kitelands Recreation ground

Correspondence was received from a resident of St Margarets Gardens, to voice concerns about the number of people who exercise their dogs, at the above recreation ground, off their leads. She has seen as many as 7 dogs, some large, all running after a ball together, and is concerned about what would happen if there were to be children or an older person nearby. Some older residents will not walk in the park because of the dogs.

She is requesting that signs be erected at each of the three entrances to the park, to state that 'Dogs must be kept on leads', as this is meant to be a children's recreation ground.

It was **RESOLVED** that 3 signs be erected.

j. Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) publication of further information

The draft version of the above document was published for consultation earlier this year and Central Bedfordshire Council has now informed Council that two further supporting documents are now being published:

1. Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report
2. Updated Site Allocations Technical Document

The DPD itself has not changed and it is only these two supporting documents that are being discussed.

The documents can be viewed at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and at www.talktocentralbedfordshire.co.uk. A hard copy is available in Town Council offices for Members to view

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

k. Pavement repairs in Biggleswade

Paul Joyce from Highways has advised that although Town Council will not be receiving any Parish Partnership monies, Highways Dept have been given £26,000 to repair pavements within the boundaries of Biggleswade, and Members were asked to consider how best the monies should be spent.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would contact Highways to inform them of the priority listing for pavement repairs in Biggleswade, which is as follows:

1. Holme Crescent
2. Church Street
3. Hitchin Street, passed traffic lights up to Windmill View both sides
4. Blunham Road
5. Coopers Close.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Update Report – Sunnyside and Hitchmead Schools

Cllr Mrs Sheila Grayston has supplied an Update Report on Sunnyside and Hitchmead Schools, and a copy was attached to this agenda for members information.

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

b. Proposed Temporary Road Closure – A6001 Hill Lane, Biggleswade

Central Bedfordshire Council has received a request for a temporary road closure at the above location to enable surfacing work to be carried out in safety.

The closure is expected to take place on 3 nights from Monday 10 to Thursday 13 May 2010 between 2000hrs and 0600hrs. Access may be allowed from time to time according to local signing.

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

c. Street Watch, Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire Police has written to Town Council informing of the launch of several Street Watch Schemes in Central Bedfordshire in the near future.

Street Watch has already been successfully implemented in Hampshire and is currently being trialled in a number of other Police Forces. Bedfordshire Police have identified 8 initial sites within the Central Bedfordshire area and have plans in place to expand the number of schemes later this year.

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

d. **Part of Bridleway no 11 – Public Path Diversion 2009**

Correspondence has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council to inform of a Public Path Diversion Order 2009 for part of bridleway no 11. The notice will appear in the Chronicle and a copy is attached to this agenda.

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

e. **Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places – Dells Lane, Mead End, Broadmead and Coppice Mead**

Central Bedfordshire Council has advised that the above-named Order has been sealed and comes into force on 19 April 2010, and will be published in the Biggleswade Chronicle.

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

f. **BEar update**

Town Council has received an update from BEar Communications and a copy is attached to this agenda.

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

g. **Infrastructure (Applications: Prescribed forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 Proposed Application by Covanta for a Development Consent for the Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility at Rookery South Pit near Stewartby**

Central Bedfordshire Council has written to Town Council to advise of the nature of the development proposed by Covanta at Rookery South Pit and the new process through which it will pass to seek to obtain development consent and a copy is attached to this agenda.

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

h. **Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Palace Street, Biggleswade**

Correspondence has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council to advise that they are in receipt of a request for a Temporary Road Closure at the above location to enable reinstatement work to be carried out in safety. The closure is expected to take place on Wednesday 19 May between 0730hrs and 1800hrs. Access may be allowed from time to time according to local signing.

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

i. **Biggleswade History Society Newsletter**

Town Council has received a copy of Biggleswade History Society Newsletter for April and a copy is attached to this agenda.

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

13. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A resident of Royal Oak Close addressed Members to advise that the Police have been informed that the CCTV needs to be located in Shortmead Street to be more effective, and should be monitored.

She said that preventative measures are needed to be in place to help stop the problems the residents are experiencing.

The Town Clerk advised that there is a public bridleway that runs through Dan Albone Car Park, which has to be accessible 24hrs a day.

Andy Buck, a resident of Holme Court Avenue said that he thinks an extra 'No dogs' sign should be installed at the small play area of Kitelands Park.

14. 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.