

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2010 AT THE  
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD  
BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs W Smith (Chair), Cllr D Smith, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr T Woodward, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr P Rook, Cllr S Watkins.  
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk  
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant  
P C Ian Wilson – Bedfordshire Constabulary  
Derek Kemp – RBS Solutions  
John Ingrey – Biggleswade Allotment Group  
Members of the public - 3

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs J Lawrence and Cllr D Lawrence.

**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.

Cllr Mrs S Grayston registered an interest in item 10b as listed on the agenda.

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced at the meeting that the 2011 Civic Service will be held on 27 March at St Andrew's Parish Church.

**4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Clive Porter addressed the meeting regarding the proposed Wind Farm. Mr Porter said despite the number of Wind Turbines being reduced from 16 to 10, he still doesn't think that Langford is the right place for them. There is a noise issue and they are not environmentally friendly. The amount of electricity produced is not good, they are not productive enough and have to be turned off when the wind is too strong.

**5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

PC Ian Wilson informed the meeting that crime levels in this area had increased by 23.8% compared to the same period last year. He handed out the reports to all and went through them briefly.

There were 7 house burglaries in May 2010, vehicle crime is slightly up but anti-social behaviour is down.

With the help of scene of crime DNA, 1 burglar has been arrested. A wheelchair drug dealer has been jailed for 12 months.

Recent burglaries involve theft of jewellery mainly, and it's thought that it is being sold to the 'Cash for Gold' companies.

The anti-social behaviour, as previously reported at the Red Lion, has resulted in one lad being ordered to pay £50 compensation and to do community service.

The prolific shoplifters had been jailed for 4 months.

The next Community Safety Forum will be discussing the issue of nuisance motor bikes in 2 areas of Biggleswade.

PC Wilson said that Biggleswade Police Station is currently one member of staff short, but this should only last for a couple of weeks.

On Saturday 26 June, Carnival Day, the Police would be organizing traffic control. The football tournament has been cancelled due to lack of numbers.

Cllr G Wilson asked if the Police had any comments to make regarding the proposed Wind Farm, with their Helicopters flying in the area.

PC Wilson replied that he would look into this matter.

## **6. INVITED SPEAKERS**

Derek Kemp of RBS was present at the meeting to present and give an overview to members of the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010.

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

### **a. Internal Audit Report (Final Update) 2009/2010**

Members received a copy of the Internal Audit Report and agree the recommendations on the Action Plan.

### **b. Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 (Previously Circulated)**

- i. Members approved and adopted the Accounts and Statement of Accounts contained in the Annual Return for 2009/2010.
- ii. Members approved and adopted the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return for the year 2009/2010.

### **c. Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts for June:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010
- iv. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010
- iv. Summary of Income & Expenditure
- v. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010

## **8. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting held on 11 May 2010 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Special meeting held on 1 June 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 8 June 2010 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

## **9 MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting held on 11 May 2010 - none
- b. Minutes of the Special meeting held on 1 June 2010 – none.
- c. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 8 June 2010 – none.

## **10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **CB/10/01892/FULL – 22 Ivel Bury, Biggleswade.**  
Full: Conversion of garage to form dining area and store.

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

**b. MB/09/00118/FULL – Land to the North of Edworth Road, Langford.**

*Full: Amendments to original Application. Revised scheme for the erection of 10 Wind Turbines, 2 control buildings and monitoring mast. Provision of associated hardstanding areas and on-site track accesses.*

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this planning application on the grounds of the noise level of the turbines and the impact on the environment.

**c. CB/10/02080/FULL – Phase 2, Land South of Potton Road, Biggleswade.**

Full: Erection of 38 dwellings, roads & sewers.

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

**d. CB/10/01793/FULL – Land at 42, The Baulk, Biggleswade.**

Full: Alterations to planning approval 07/00209/FULL dated 29 May 2007 for the erection of 15 apartments. Alterations to the layout and fenestrations of units 10, 13 & 14, alterations to parking layout/landscaping/bin & bike stores (Retrospective)

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

**11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**a. Request from Biggleswade Allotment Group**

Biggleswade Allotment Group has written to Town Council requesting permission to site a small number of beehives on the allotments.

They have supplied several documents which have been compiled by the relevant organisations setting out guide lines for use of bee hives on allotment sites.

The Co-op chain is sponsoring a national initiative to encourage more bee hives to be established since the benefits are significant to everyone.

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be granted **AND** that the relevant tenancy agreements be modified to include clarification of responsibility of Public Liability, and also, that it must be ensured that the hives are sited away from walkways.

The Town Clerk will write to and liaise with the Biggleswade Allotment Group.

**b. Electoral Review of Central Bedfordshire; Draft recommendations**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has supplied Town Council with a copy of their report setting out its draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for Central Bedfordshire. The electoral arrangements will change as a result of their recommendations. A copy of the report can also be viewed on their website: [www.igbce.org.uk](http://www.igbce.org.uk).

The Commission has not finalised its conclusions and, in light of further evidence may put forward final recommendations which differ from those set out in the draft recommendations. They therefore encourage all those who have a view to write to them regardless of whether or not they agree with the draft recommendations and would welcome comments by **12 July 2010**.

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

**c. Application for Variance of Premises Licence – Stratton House Hotel**

Central Bedfordshire Council have received an application for Variance of Premises Licence from Stratton House Hotel to extend the sale of alcohol and recorded music:

To extend recorded music to 9.00hrs – 02.00hrs Monday – Saturday  
9.00hrs – 0.00hrs Sunday

To extend sales of alcohol to 10.00hrs – 02.00hrs Monday – Saturday

Residents and guests bar open 24hrs

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted. Cllr Mrs S Grayston will take this item to the next Community Safety Forum meeting for comments.

**d. Swiss Garden letter of support**

The Shuttleworth Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council are working together on proposals and a bid for a Heritage lottery Grant to refurbish and revitalise the Swiss Garden. The project will aim to reveal the garden's 19<sup>th</sup> century Swiss Picturesque design, highlight the site's defining Ongley and Shuttleworth features and enhance the visitor experience at this valuable and unique garden.

They have written to Town Council to raise awareness of the project, seek comments and if possible, add Council's support to their bid, and a copy was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support their bid.

**e. Request for bus shelter at the Sainsbury's roundabout**

Correspondence has been received from a resident of North Gate Court, requesting that consideration be given to the provision of a bus shelter at the bus stop on the westbound side of the Sainsbury's roundabout, to protect people from the wind, rain, and as with last winter, snow blowing from the adjoining meadow.

Sainsbury's customers, other travellers, and the residents of the nearby retirement flats (which when fully occupied will house 50 elderly residents) use this convenient bus stop.

This location is in the parish of Northill not Biggleswade, but it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support this request and will write to Central Bedfordshire Council, also the residents' letter will be forwarded to them.

**f. Ivel Valley Cycle Forum**

Members received correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council to invite a Clerk, Councillor or interested party to attend the first meeting of the Ivel Valley Cycle Forum, to be held at Priory House, Chicksands on Wednesday 30 June from 6pm to 8pm. A copy of the agenda was attached.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr David Albone would attend. Town Council will notify CBC.

**12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**a. Submission of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document**

Central Bedfordshire Council has written to Council to inform that the above document has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

The document sets out the CBC's chosen sites for allocating, housing, employment uses and green space in the former Mid Beds Area. It also allocated the Key Employment sites and Important Open Space designations across the area.

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

**b. Thank you letters**

Thank you letters have been received from the following:

Biggleswade History Society  
Mid Beds Link-a-Ride  
Beaver Swimming Club  
Biggleswade Rugby & Associated Clubs  
Vitalise  
Kestrel Archery Club  
Chelsea Duffin  
Biggleswade Gospel Singers

to thank Town Council on the receipt of their grant cheques.

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

**13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Gerry Lawrence thanked the Town Council for supporting the request for Beehives, and is pleased that their importance is recognized.

John Ingrey (BAG) also thanked the Town Council for their support.

**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.