

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER
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 Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr G Wilson,
Cllr T Woodward, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr Mrs R Forbes,
Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Albone, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Sgt Russ Glenister – Bedfordshire Constabulary
Members of the Public – 1

1. APOLOGIES

No Apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

(a) Personal Interests - Cllr 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 P Vickers declared an interest in item 9b as listed on the agenda.

Cllr Mrs J and Cllr D Lawrence declared an interest in item 9a as listed on the agenda.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that D H Barford has offered 2 dates for the Councillors visit to Holme Mills. Monday 11th October was favoured by 6 of the Councillors. Councillors asked whether any other dates could be made available.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the Public Open Session.

5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Sgt Glenister suggested that the new Superintendent, Mr Waring, attend the next Council meeting in October, and will liaise with the Town Clerk nearer the time.

Sgt Glenister ran through the report that showed that the average number of crimes in this area has increased from 75 to 85 (13.3%), compared to the same period last year, this includes theft from outbuildings.

Vehicle crime has increased around the town with vehicles stolen, as has violent crimes during the warmer nights, fuelled by alcohol.

Anti-social behaviour incidents has decreased from 95.3 to 86.3 (9.4%), although the figure for August is much the same as last year, probably due to the school holidays.

Sgt Glenister informed the meeting that Council would be receiving a letter regarding boundary changes to the Safer Neighbourhood Schemes in Central Bedfordshire, which is reducing the areas from 33 to 8. There will be a presentation at the Safety Community Forum meeting.

Beat Officers would be drafted in from rural areas if needed. All areas are to cover each other as and when required.

PC Woodruff is working at Ampthill Station for 2 or 3 months, no-one is standing in for him at Biggleswade at the moment.

Sgt Glenister asked Council if they would like Neil Waring and the new Inspector to attend the next Town Council meeting. It was agreed that Sgt Glenister arrange this with the Town Clerk.

6. **INVITED SPEAKERS**

There were no invited Speakers.

7. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 August 2010 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Personnel meeting held on 10 September 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 14 September 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 24 August 2010 – Page 5 – item 11c – The Town Clerk updated Members regarding the letter received from Central Bedfordshire Council.
- b. Minutes of the Personnel meeting held on 10 September 2010 – none.
- c. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 14 September 2010 – these items were discussed under Exempt Items.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **CB/TCA/10/00278 – Coach & Horses, 49-51 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade.**
Remove part of a Leylandii hedge within the garden

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

- b. **CB/10/02942/FULL – Holme Grove House, London Road, Biggleswade.**
Amendment: Omission of new curved brick wall as shown on drawing LTD013.003A.

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

- c. **CB/10/03423/FULL – 132 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade**
Full: Front Porch

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

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

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

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Biggleswade Bulletin magazine**

The Town Mayor informed Members of the details. The magazine raises money through sponsorship, and for a preferential position the cost is extra.

It was **RESOLVED** to book 1 page for 6 months, with a view to increasing to 2 pages should the need arise.

b. Request for a Public Consultation

A request was received from a Biggleswade resident for Town Council to hold a Public Consultation in relation to the planning application for the development of the land at Saxon Gate.

There is no change from the Council meeting in August, so a Consultation would only be considered after November as Town Council is currently awaiting the outcome of the application.

It was **RESOLVED** that a comprehensive letter be written to the resident explaining the Town Councils current position in relation to the planning application.

c. Condition Survey of Cemetery Building, Biggleswade

Correspondence was received from Levitt Partnership confirming the procedures and fees should Town Council wish to continue with the above project.

The intention of the report is to identify the necessary maintenance works required within the next five years 2010-2015.

Members asked whether there were any grants available for historical bodies/remedial work. The History Society has advised a few contacts.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agree to the costs of carrying out the survey.

d. AAT Student Membership Fees

Last years AAT subscription was included in the annual costing, but this year it needs to be paid separately. In order for the Finance Assistant to continue her college course this fee of £74 needs to be paid and she asking whether Council would be prepared to pay this cost, as they did last year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council agree to this request.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Thank you letter from Bedford College

Bedford College has received Town Council's cheque for £50 sponsorship, and a copy of their thank you letter was attached to this agenda.

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

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

14. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

Section 1001 (1) of the LGA (Access to information) (variation) order 2006. Schedule 12a part I paragraph 3.