

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2010 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr T Woodward (Chair), Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr P Rook
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Inspector P Nouch – Bedfordshire Constabulary
Sergeant R Glenister – Bedfordshire Constabulary
P C Ian Wilson – Bedfordshire Constabulary
Members of the Public - 2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr Smith and Cllr G Wilson.

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 registered an interest in item 11e as listed on the agenda.

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

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Town Mayor's announcements.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Ian Wilson ran through the latest crime figures which showed that overall crime in this area is average compared with the rest of Bedfordshire. Vehicle crime has fallen by 12% and anti-social behaviour by 14%. However there has been an increase in burglaries in the area.

5 nuisance motor bikes have been seized over the past few months, high visibility patrols have been carried out in the highlighted areas of Furzenhall Road and behind Stratton Way. As the nights are drawing in, it is hoped that the issue will reduce even more. This priority was agreed to be finalised at the latest forum although will continue to be monitored.

Incidents and phone calls to Police regarding anti-social behaviour in Brunel Drive, have reduced from over 30 in three months to zero. This is an excellent result with a lot of work being put in by all members of the SNT and its partners. A drugs warrant was issued resulting in two persons being arrested for possession with the intent to supply class A drugs and they are due to appear in court shortly.

In addition an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) was successfully applied for one resident, Donna Webster, of Brunel Drive, who received a five year ASBO.

5 drugs warrants have been carried out in Biggleswade over the past 3 months. These were a direct result of information received from members of the public. Several cannabis plants were seized from each location together with the equipment used to cultivate them. Several persons were arrested and later received either criminal cautions or were charged with cultivation of cannabis.

A Romanian man was caught red handed stealing £5,000 worth of copper wiring in Biggleswade and has been given the following sentence;

A nine month prison sentence suspended for two years, with supervision and 75 hours unpaid work, as well a bill of £940 for a fine, compensation and costs. He is also ordered that a part of the suspended sentence he is forbidden from being in a vehicle between 6pm and 5am for 12 months unless for work purposes and he has written permission from his supervisory officer.

During the summer complaints were received about noise on Friday night when 20 to 30 young people gathered in land off the A1 between the Biggleswade north and south roundabouts. The group, mainly made up of local people, ignored advice from police to move on and when they were still there the following day patrol officers took positive action.

As official Section 63 notice was served on the organisers, meaning if they did not disperse they could find their sound equipment being seized and facing arrest. The group moved on, but that afternoon it was reported that they had moved onto a second piece of land nearby. As a result, another Section 63 notice was obtained and their equipment was seized.

6. INVITED SPEAKER

Inspector Pete Nouch addressed the Council on the recent boundary changes and agreed to take questions.

Inspector Nouch said that the boundary change presentation should have been given before 1 October, the implementation date.

Sandy and Biggleswade area will have 4 Neighbourhood Police Officers (NPOs) and 6 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). It has been necessary to examine working practices within the current model and redefine both the neighbourhood boundaries and the geographic size of each Inspector Led Neighbourhood Areas (ILNAs) which contains 33 neighbourhoods.

Moving to fewer neighbourhoods will enable officers to carry out more targeted visible problem solving activity in high priority areas where there is low confidence in the police.

A reduction in the number of neighbourhoods will allow for more intelligence driven problem solving in areas that need it the most.

Fewer neighbourhoods with more officers assigned to each will facilitate a team approach in dealing with priorities and issues.

Realignment of neighbourhood boundaries and neighbourhood teams will allow for better support across the policing area.

In conclusion, these changes are necessary to ensure delivery of high quality and effective neighbourhood policing across Central Bedfordshire. It will ensure that areas of concern are prioritised and resourced appropriately. It will delivery modern day partnership working our neighbourhoods by engaging and listening to our communities.

Cllr Rex Skinner asked if the changes are due to the recent Government spending review.

Inspector Nouch replied that the re-organisation is not as a result of the Government spending review.

Cllr Mrs Jane Lawrence asked if the changes are due to funding cuts or to implement funding cuts.

Inspector Nouch replied that funding has not been cut nor are the changes to implement funding cuts.

7 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 September 2010 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b.** Members received and adopted Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 12 October 2010 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 September 2010 - none
- b. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 12 October 2010 – Cllr Mrs S Grayston asked if there were any further developments with the Christmas lights and if Town Council had received the Chamber of Trade accounts yet.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/10/03585/FULL – 94-96 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. (Deffered from Planning Meeting 12 October.)**

Full: Subdivide part of existing shop to form a new two bedroom flat. Incorporation of roof windows & change existing doors to windows.

Further information received from Central Beds. Copy attached to this Agenda.

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

- b. **CB/10/03744/FULL – 3 Windermere Drive, Biggleswade.**

Full: Single storey side extension.

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

- c. **CB/10/03751/FULL – 149 Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Full: Demolish existing garage & replace with new bedroom & disabled wheelchair accessible w.c. & shower room for disabled applicant

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 30th September 2010
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30th September 2010

- b. **Annual Return 31st March 2010**

Members approved and accepted the Annual Return for 31st March 2010 (copy attached)

- c. **Annual Audit 2010/2011**

Members received and recorded the external audit report for the year to 31st March 2010 (copy of Certificate attached) and agreed that the recommendations be carried out.

11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **New Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity**

NALC has supplied a copy of the New Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity and views and observations are requested by 10 November 2010.

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

b. Date for Annual Bowls Match

Biggleswade Bowls Club offered 3 dates for the Annual Bowls Match, 2011.

30 June 2011
4 August 2011
18 August 2011

Members were asked to choose a date to enable the Bowls Club to have the date printed in the Club Handbook 2011.

It was **RESOLVED** that due to the elections next May, to let the Bowls Club decide on a date and for them to advise Town Council.

c. Salvation Army Band request

Correspondence was received from The Salvation Army asking permission for band members to play Christmas carols and make a collection at the Saturday market on 11 December.

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

d. Jehovah's Witnesses – market stall request

A request was received from Biggleswade Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses with regard to the availability of a market stall on the first Saturday of each month. The purpose of which is to display literature that promotes respect for secular authority, persons & property & the maintenance of personal & family values as well as positive hope for the future.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **REFUSE** the request for a regular monthly stall.

A letter is to be written to inform of Town Councils general policy regarding booking a Charity Stall and that any written requests received for an ad-hoc stall would be considered when received.

e. Request from St Andrew's Church - Biggleswade

Correspondence was received from St Andrew's Church requesting permission to stage their Nativity Tableau and carol singing in the Market Square on Saturday 18 December between 10am and 12pm, as in previous years. The format will be the same as usual, a stable housing the Holy Family, people dressed as shepherds, Kings etc., and live animals.

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

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Thank you letter from Royal Anglian Regiment

The Royal Anglian Regiment has written to Town Council to send thanks for their cheque, which were funds raised at the 10th Anniversary Twinning Event earlier this year.

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

b. Macmillan Coffee Morning

Town Council received a 'Thank you' email from Macmillan Cancer Support for the £71 that was raised at the coffee morning on 24 September.

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

c. **Thank you letter Monday Night Youth Club**

The children & volunteers of the Monday Night Youth Club sent a letter expressing their thanks for the grant money received earlier this year.

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(s) is discussed.

Section 1002 (1) of the LGA (Access to information) (variation) order 2006. Section 12a part 1 paragraph 3.