

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2011 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr P Vickers,
Cllr G Wilson, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr Mrs S Grayston,
Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr T Woodward, Cllr P Woodward
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
PCSO Helen Randall – Bedfordshire Constabulary
Members of the Public - 3

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P Rook.

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.

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

PCSO Helen Randall told Members there had recently been a shoplifting incidence when the offender was chased by Officers who saw the person enter a property, a number of items were retrieved and the offender was arrested.

Helen Randall also gave a brief overview of the crime figures for February and March which are as follows:

	March	April
Violence against the Person	20	35
Burglary of Dwelling	14	8
Robbery	0	0
Theft of a Vehicle	13	4
Theft from a Vehicle	16	21
Burglary other	24	24
Other theft	62	40
Fraud and Forgery	7	3
Drugs	5	2
Criminal damage	52	37
Other Notifiable Offences	2	0
Sexual Offences	3	1
TOTALS	218	175

Cllr D Albone asked if the figures followed a seasonal trend.

Helen Randall replied that the increase in crime figures coincided with the release of a known offender.

Cllr P Vickers said the garage at the north end of Shortmead Street has vehicles parked on the footpath and asked if this is a Police matter.

Helen Randall replied it would be a Police matter if the cars were in a dangerous position or causing an obstruction

Cllr P Vickers said the any elderly residents of Northgate Court using mobility scooters would have difficulty negotiating around the parked vehicles.

Cllr G Wilson asked if this had been reported to the Police before.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that this has been going on for some time and she had complained before about the selling of vehicles and blocking of the footpath. There should be 1.8m of footpath clear for pedestrians.

Helen Randall replied that PC Ian Wilson has found out about the laws which states that no more than 3 cars are allowed.

Cllr Mrs W Smith said that she thought that was appalling, and that it is not acceptable on a busy dangerous corner.

Cllr G Wilson asked if CBC Chicksands are aware of the situation.

Helen Randall said that she had looked into it all with PC Ian Wilson.

6. **INVITED SPEAKERS**

There were no invited speakers.

7. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and adopted Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 March 2011 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 April 2011 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 22 March 2011- Page 5 item 11b (Grants) – to be amended to read – BigglesFM awarded £500 + £500 for advertising
- b. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 12 April 2011 - none

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **CB/11/01104/FULL – 1B Market Square, Biggleswade SG18 8AP**
Change of use to A5, erection of new shopfront and erection of extract duct to rear.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY OBJECT** to this application as it is loss of a valuable retail unit, parking would be an issue as there are double yellow lines outside the premises causing problems for deliveries on what is already a very busy road, as well as causing a nuisance to the residential property above. Town Council feels that Biggleswade has enough fast food outlets.

- b. **CB/11/00966/RM – Land South of, Pottton Road, Biggleswade**
Reserved matters: Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of blocks 27,28 and 30 for residential development of 87 dwellings and associated areas (pursuant to outline planning permission MB/03/1205/OUT dated 13 November 2006)

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 March 2011
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 March 2011

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Mid Beds Link-a-Ride Community Transport**

Correspondence was received from the above organisation requesting financial assistance from Town Council.

Their aim is provide door to door service for those people whom are unable to use normal transport because of a temporary or permanent disability. The service uses vehicles that are constructed for ease of access, even when using a wheelchair.

Although they are led to believe that funding is to be provided by CBC for this year, they are aware that a reduction of significant proportions can be expected next year.

A Consultant survey of users found the service provided is very much needed and appreciated, providing much more than transport.

They have invited Members to attend their AGM on July 14 at Ampthill Social Centre, Houghton Close, Ampthill.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mid Beds Link-a-Ride be invited to present their Business Case to Town Council at the Finance and General Purposes meeting due to be held on 8 November 2011, to enable Members to consider their eligibility to apply for Financial Assistance in 2012.

b. **Application for financial assistance from Thursday night Badminton Club**

The above application was received by Town Council. The only way this club is able to continue playing at the Biggleswade Recreation Centre, is if they pay for their own Public Liability Insurance.

It was agreed at Council meeting on 22 March that clubs could apply for financial assistance to help towards the cost of Public Liability Insurance and that each application would be looked at on its own merit.

It was **RESOLVED** that, due to the exceptional circumstances, Town Council agree to this request.

12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Street Naming and Numbering – Land South of Potton Road**

CBC have confirmed postal addresses for 38 additional dwellings at Phase 2, Land South of Potton Road.

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

b. **Thank you letters received re Grants received**

Letters were received from Victim Support and Biggleswade Twinning Association to thank Town Council for their Grant allocation.

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

c. **Thank you letters received re Work Experience**

Town Council had received a thank you letter from Gary Standing who recently completed 2 weeks work experience with the Ground Staff.

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

d. **Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Church Street, Biggleswade**

Correspondence was received from CBC to inform Town Council of the above temporary road closure to enable surfacing work to be carried out in safety, for two weeks from Monday 23 May 2011 between 0800 and 1800hrs.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted

13. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session.