

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 9
AUGUST 2011 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith (Chair), Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr I Bond, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr B Briars,
Cllr Ms S Mulchrone
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant

Also present; Cllr D Albone and Cllr Mrs H Ramsay.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs J Lawrence and Cllr S Watkins.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests in any agenda item – there were no prejudicial interests declared

(b) Personal interests in any agenda item – there were no personal interests declared

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session

4. ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr I Bond be appointed to the office of Vice Chair of the Public Land & Open Space Committee for the period 2011/2012.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Allotment Rent increase

i) An anonymous letter and petition has been received regarding the allotment rent increase due to come into effect from 1 September 2011. It is requested that Pensioners be charged half rent only.

Members are asked to consider this request.

ii) Biggleswade Allotment Group has also written to Town Council to register a formal objection against the rent increases.

They have mentioned concessions for OAP's.

A copy is attached to this agenda.

iii) A copy of the minutes of the Meeting with BAG held on 23 June 2011 are attached to this agenda as well as a copy of the breakdown of the annual costs incurred by Town Council to maintain the allotments.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the fees be reviewed when Precept for 2012/2013 be set later this year and a letter to be sent to BAG and all other Groups. All fees would remain as is for 2011/2012. A letter would be sent to all allotment holders with the annual invoice, advising the above and also a form requesting date of births for each tenant. This will then indicate how many allotment tenants are of state pension age for us to consider the request for 2012/2013.

b. S106 Contributions

CBC has informed Council of S106 contributions which have less than 12 months before they must be returned to the developer if not spent.

In accordance with the 'Recreational Open Space Strategy' on the Laundry Premises, Potton Road 05/00516 there is £5,440.00 still unspent.

Members are asked to consider a use for this funding.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to discuss/decide the above after the "Annual Walkabout". The Town Clerk will provide all with a summary of all outstanding S106 contributions.

c. Walk-about dates

Members are asked to consider date(s) for the Annual Walk-about.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the walk-about dates would be on Tuesday 30th August 2011 @ 6pm and Tuesday 6th September 2011 @ 6pm. An Itinerary would be circulated beforehand.

6. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions that are pertaining to matters listed on this agenda.

Sheila Grayston asked as they had been discussing the Walkabout, if the Town Clerk could advise on the current situation on the proposed and much needed new Kitelands Play Equipment.

The Town Clerk advised the he was currently awaiting 2 forms of information for a survey to be undertaken to move forward. This item would be brought to the next Council meeting.

Clr B Briars asked whether all the Councillors could have an update on this issue. The Town Clerk advised that he would send an email to all.