

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OFF STREET CAR PARKING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER  
2011 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON  
ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr S Watkins (Chair) Cllr T Woodward, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr G Wilson,  
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr Mrs M Russell (Vice Chair), Cllr D Albone  
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant  
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant  
Martin Thomas – Chamber of Trade  
Members of the public – 4

Also present: Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr I Bond, Cllr P Vickers and Cllr B Briars

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs W Smith and Cllr Ms S Mulchrone

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

**3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Duncan Strachan, a member of the public, asked that a further Public Open Session be added to the end of the agenda.

Cllr S Watkins agreed to this request.

**4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**a.** Martin Thomas from the Chamber of Trade, addressed the meeting regarding the Christmas Lights.

He said that there was a deficit last year with the Chamber of Trade agreed to clear with a slight balance to add to the fund.

Jamie Harris has increased his price by 7%, so the budget will need to be raised, but still within £10,600.

The normal procedure hopefully for collecting funds will be a campaign via the website and local traders. A lot of people prefer to be contacted via email which saves on postage costs, although it can be hard to get people to donate.

Insurances are getting very particular regarding brackets etc for the lights, and may not insure for the lights to go across the road.

Town Council had asked if more quotes could be obtained to erect the lights, but Chamber of Trade have been unable to get anyone to quote. This year someone is coming to look at the lights in situ in order to provide a quotation. As bulbs stop working they are replaced with LED bulbs.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay asked if they are more expensive and longer lasting.

Martin Thomas replied that these are the only bulbs available now.

Cllr T Woodward said that LED bulbs are cheaper and will last longer.

**b. Request for a Bus shelter in Stratton Way**

CBC had received a request from a member of the public for the provision of a bus shelter in Stratton Way, opposite Boddington Gardens (plan attached).

CBC will soon have a second-hand bus shelter available, they would install it free of charge, but it would be a requirement of Town Council to maintain the shelter.

They are asking Town Council which is the most deserving location and if the shelter were installed would Town Council be prepared to take over responsibility.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to accept the offer of the Bus Shelter for installation in Stratton Way as requested by a member of the public.

**c. Request to hire a market stall**

A Slimming World consultant has requested permission to hire a market stall several times a year. The Market Superintendent has agreed but told her that she needs to seek permission from the Town Council.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Council raise no objection to this request **PROVIDED** that she liaises with the Market Superintendent.

**d. Request to hold an Italian Market**

Simon Faro, from Italia In Piazza has requested to hold an Italian Market in the Market Square on Friday 9 March 2012.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to agree to this request.

**e. Review of Town Centre parking in Biggleswade**

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that car parking issues, especially on Market days, in Biggleswade need to be discussed. One idea could be for the exit bus lane to be closed to help house the Market and for attractions that are sometimes located on White Hart car park, to be moved to within the Market.

*At this point Cllr S Watkins allowed Martin Thomas of the Chamber of Trade to address the meeting regarding parking issues in Biggleswade.*

Martin Thomas said that parking is a thorny issue with traders. The new retail centre footage has increased and will be quite large with only 100 parking spaces with 3 hours limit. From there people could go by bus to the Town Centre. As this development is due to start next year we need to get parking structure in place in the Town, to be able to accommodate more cars.

With regards to ALDI, it's not their responsibility to house other workers in the town. The White Hart car park is sometimes used for attractions that could be housed on the Market.

All ALDI car parks are 1½ hours but we have slightly different situation here and the have been asked to revise the time limit. When the site was sold to Budgens by BUDC it was promised to be a car park and used to be 2hrs limit in front of the shop. We need to ask the Town Clerk to find details of the original sale to see if there is a covenant on the car park.

Rose Lane car park has 20 – 25 commuters per day which causes problems for shoppers.

Perhaps charging for certain car parks is an option possibly for long term parking, but not charging for off street parking.

Car parking spaces are needed as agreed in the Masterplan. Biggleswade Town Council needs to put pressure on CBC to enforce.

Cllr D Albone said that a review of parking needs to take into account commuter parking and to stop long term commuter parking stopping shoppers parking.

Cllr M Russell said that CBC might be prepared to carry out a new survey to get the Masterplan moving particularly in regards to parking.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council put pressure on CBC and Highways to implement the Masterplan particularly in relation to parking in Biggleswade.

**5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**a. Rose Lane Car park**

CBC telephoned Town Council to say that they have no funds to help with cost of the lease for Rose Lane car park for 2011/2012 or any other year.

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

**b. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Duncan Strachan asked Councillors to look at history re ALDI's planning condition regarding parking and availability. The Market Square has bus parking because British Rail didn't want the buses at the station. Respect history and those who made decisions.

Rob Green said he had also attended the TPSG meeting and didn't agree with Martin Thomas's comments on the development at London Road, that there is a greater increase in footage than car parking spaces. There is a drop off point but no bus stop provided for the Town Centre.

Martin Thomas replied that he wasn't criticising the development but with only 100 parking spaces, we don't want people to go only into the Town.

Sheila Grayston said that she had also taken notes at the TPSG meeting and she agreed with Cllr Mrs M Russell's comments re working together with CBC and Highways regarding car parking. Mrs Grayston went on to say that she was disappointed that CBC had only telephoned Town Council to inform that they would not have any funds available to help with the cost of the lease for Rose Lane car park.

Duncan Strachan said that everyone worried when Sainsbury's arrived, but this has proved financially beneficial to the town.

**6. EXEMPT ITEMS**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) ACT 1960, Council resolved to exclude the public and the press by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.