

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD,
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith (Chair), Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr Ms S Mulchrone, Cllr I Bond, Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr Mrs M Russell, Cllr D Albone, Cllr B Briars, Cllr R Skinner
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Mary Davidson – WYG Planning and Design
Hannah Blunstone – WYG Planning and Design
Members of the public - 4

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P Vickers, Cllr T Woodward and Cllr S Watkins

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests in any agenda item -. Cllr I Bond declared a prejudicial interest in item 4e

(b) Personal interests in any agenda item - Cllr I Bond declared a personal interest in item 4e (Planning application) as listed on the agenda.

Cllr Mrs M Russell declared an interest in items 4e, 5c and 5d as listed on the agenda.

Cllr B Briars registered an interest in item 5d as listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A member of the public queried why the minutes of 27 September weren't on Town Councils website yet.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Wendy Smith gave a full response after the meeting.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. CB/11/03631/FULL – Little Acre, Langford Road, Biggleswade

Proposed siting of 3 no new touring caravans and retention of existing 3 no units.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application **BUT** insist that the site isn't expanded any further.

b. CB/11/03734/FULL – London Road Retail Park, London Road, Biggleswade

Demolition of existing retail and commercial units. Construction of new retail units (Use Class A1) and (Use Class A3); alterations to Homebase; associated access works, servicing and landscaping; improvements to London Road.

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

c. CB/11/03850/FULL – 143 Potton Road, Biggleswade

Erection of single storey rear extension

Replaces CB/11/03089/FULL-Rear extension (conservatory)- Council 27/09/11- No Objection

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- d. **CB/11/03879/REN – 190 Drove Road, Biggleswade**
Renewal of Planning Permission: CB/08/01884/FULL Single storey rear and side extension replacing existing conservatory, car port and shed.

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

Cllr Ian Bond left the chamber whilst the next item was discussed,

- e. **CB/11/03899/FULL – Land at Shortmead Cottage, Shortmead Lane, Biggleswade**
Installation of solar panels to supply renewable energy for Shortmead House and Cottage.

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

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Boot camp style exercise classes in Biggleswade**

Town Council received a request to start an outdoor boot camp/ circuit class in Biggleswade. Circuit classes or outdoor boot camps are usually a very fun affordable way for people to get fit without having to use too much equipment.

They are looking for a big grass/field park where they could meet perhaps once or twice a week for an hour or so, and thought of where this may be possible (Eagle Farm Road, Stratton Way, Jubilee Park) etc.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant this request **BUT** they must liaise with the Town Clerk as to the most suitable site, and that they be charged the same fees as the Football teams that use the recreation grounds.

b. **Request from MAGPAS**

Correspondence was received from MAGPAS, The Emergency Medical Charity, requesting a donation from Town Council.

Magpas provides the UK's only dedicated night time air ambulance with a highly trained doctor and paramedic on board. Over 50 of the UK's leading medics volunteer with Magpas to provide over £3.6 million worth of frontline medical care – free of charge.

They receive no government or lottery funding.

It was **RESOLVED** that MAGPAS be invited to apply for a grant in January 2012.

c. **Request from Rotary Club of Biggleswade Ivel – Rotary Youth Speaks**

The Rotary Club of Biggleswade Ivel requested to use the Council Chamber on the evening of Monday 5th or Thursday 8 December to hold the local round of 'Rotary Youth Speaks', a national competition which gives children from local schools the opportunity to speak on a public platform enabling them to improve their self confidence and presentational skills.

They would also need a facility to boil water etc.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant this request and that there would be no charge for the use of the Chamber.

d. **RSPB exhibition trailer roadshow**

The RSPB requested permission to bring their exhibition trailer roadshow onto the market square on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November (or one of these dates if preferred).

They want to promote the work of the RSPB and work carried out at the reserve. They will have information for people to take away, information about birds and wildlife, gift memberships and a selection of Christmas cards.

The trailer can be towed to an area in the town or market square and is easy to open up for people to come and have a look. It is approximately 8 foot by 15 foot in width and length and about 8 feet high.

It was **RESOLVED** to offer 21 November and for them to liaise with the Market Superintendent re: 22 November as this is a Market day.

e. Request to plant a Rose bush in Drove Road Cemetery

Correspondence was received from a member of the public, requesting permission to plant a patio rose bush in Drove Road Cemetery in memory of her mother who passed away 3 years ago.

This lady has moved from another country and has no place to mourn her mother.

It was **RESOLVED** that permission be granted **BUT** only after consultation with the Town Clerk and ground staff regarding the best position and best type of rose bush.

f. Re: Planning application 11/02807/RM - Land South of Potton Road

CBC Planning Dept wrote to ask Town Council to reconsider their objection to the above application.

The site is part of an overall masterplanned site which will provide sufficient open space. This was also explained to some Councillors at the recent meeting with the Developer in relation to the Community Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council withdraw their objection to this planning application.

g. Dedication of public footpath adjacent to football ground, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade

CBC, Rights of Way Officer, is trying to process outstanding creation agreements and could complete the Fairfield Road to Biggleswade Common path alongside the football ground before Xmas.

Town Council would need to send the Land Registry details for the area under the proposed path with a signed letter indicating that BTC wish the planned dedication to proceed.

He will get a plan made and forwarded to Town Council before the details are sent to him.

Issues regarding the small movement of the north eastern corner of the palisade fencing to have a fuller width needs to be finalised. Countryside Access will pay for this fence movement, the surfacing and future maintenance of the footpath. This work will take place in next year budget but CBC would like to complete the legal in 2011.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no objection.

h. Request from Bedfordshire Housing Link

Bedfordshire Housing Link requested permission to hold a 'Sponsored Sleep Out' for homeless people at Biggleswade Bus Station on 9 December 2011. They will clean the area first and would like the key to the toilets.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission and that they be asked to clean the area before they leave.

i. Request from James Harris re 2 and 3 December 2011

James Harris requested to use White Hart car park on Friday 2 December (Christmas Lights switch on) and Saturday 3 December, to stage a Funfair.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Thank you letter from Bedford College

Correspondence was received from Bedford College to thank Town Council for their £50 sponsorship.

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

7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.