

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2011 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 Mrs W Smith, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr I Bond, Cllr D Albone, Cllr B Briars, Cllr R Skinner
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Members of the public - 1

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr M Russell

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

(b) Personal interests in any agenda item - Cllr P Vickers registered an interest as a member of the Central Bedfordshire Management Development Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

Cllr P Vickers declared an interest in item 4c as listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. CB/11/04237/VOC - 9 The Grove, Biggleswade

Variation of Condition: Condition 3 relating to garage accommodation on planning permission CB/03/00049/FULL erection of two storey side extension.

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.

b. CB/11/04247/FULL - Furzenhall Cottage, Furzenhall Road, Biggleswade. Erection of detached dwelling and part demolition and alterations to existing property following the grant of Outline Consent ref 07/01216 dated 03/12/08 (all matters reserved)

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

c. CB/11/04333/FULL - 2 Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade

Erection of Double Open Fronted Garage and Side Store. Retrospective.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as the building is beyond the London Road development line and is also in contradiction of CBC planning policy. The building is unsightly and not in keeping with the local area.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. RNLI Flag Day Collection

The RNLI had written to Council requesting permission to hold their Flag Day in the Market Square on Saturday 16 June 2012. All monies collected will go towards supporting the Volunteer Lifeboat.

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

b. Citizens Advice Bureau – application for Financial Assistance

Correspondence was received from CAB requesting permission to apply for a grant or donation towards their 'Outreach' home visiting service. The role provides an 'Outreach' service for clients who cannot reach the CAB offices for advice.

Last year (April 2010 to April 2011) they only managed to secure funding for a 15-hour per week service. On that level of funding they handled 300 enquiries from Central Bedfordshire, which is estimated will raise almost £691,000 as a monetary gain for the area. 39 of these clients live in Biggleswade and estimate a potential monetary gain of £104,784.00 which will come back into the local economy.

It was **RESOLVED** that they be invited to apply for a grant in February 2012, which is when all local clubs and organisations are invited to apply.

c. CB/TPO/11/00350 – Works to a tree covered by a Preservation Order; Fell one Pear Tree Located in the left hand corner of the rear garden, the tree is part of TPO No 9/2004 and is listed as T1 - 59 London Road, Biggleswade

CBC notified Town Council that they have received the above application and Members are invited to comment.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council make no comment.

d. Street Lighting outages in Biggleswade

Correspondence was received from Amey to inform that the street lights listed below have been reported by members of the public as not working:

Column P202X Outside 29 Laburnam Road
Column P204X Opposite 4 Glebe Road
Column P203X Opposite 1 Glebe Road
Column P201X Outside 17 Glebe Road – Visual crack and concrete missing at the top of column.

The price to replace the columns is £1,410.18 + vat each, this will cover a transfer of service within 2 meters of the existing column and Amey would like to know if Town Council want them to proceed with this work.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council instruct Amey to proceed with replacing these streetlights.

e. Problems with column supply for Column 10 – Mead End, Biggleswade

Amey had received an email from UKPN with regard to some problems with the column supply for the above column, the cable was disconnected by EDF at the request of the gas board whilst they were laying their new main, the upshot is that to return the column to lighting it will require a new service from the main supply approximately 12 meters away, the cost for this will be £2,446.80 + VAT and they would like to know Town Council want them to proceed with this work.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council seek advice from their solicitor regarding writing to the gas board to request that they pay for the work.

f. Request to promote NHEB Sailing Club

Correspondence was received requesting permission to promote a sailing club run at Arlesey Blue Lagoon. They normally do promotions in Hitchin Town Square but would like to recruit members from the Biggleswade area.

They would like to bring a small dinghy on the market square on Saturday 14 April or 12 May 2012, to explain to passers by about the Club and to hand out leaflets.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no objection to this request **BUT** they must liaise with the Town Clerk and the Market Superintendent as to timing and position.

g. Central Bedfordshire Council draft Private Sector Housing Renewal

CBC had asked Council for any comments on any aspects of their draft Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** that CBC be asked to bring empty homes back into use.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Biggleswade History Society newsletter

Town Council received a copy of Biggleswade History Society Newsletter and a copy was attached to this agenda.

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

b. Temporary closure of Bridleway 28

CBC notified Town Council of a temporary closure of bridleway 28, to enable surface works related to drainage and communications to take place. This closure will continue from 12 December, following an emergency closure.

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

7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.