

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2012 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith (Chair), Cllr I Bond, Cllr B Briars, Cllr Ms S Mulchrone, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Members of the Public – 3 (1 left the meeting early)

Also present: Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr D Albone

Cllr P Woodward left the meeting early.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr G Wilson.

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. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Adoption of Brunel Drive public open space

Members were asked to consider adopting Brunel Drive public open space. A detailed map was attached to the agenda.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council may consider adopting the play areas but only after seeing proposals for new play equipment from the developer.

b. Reports of PLOS Walkabouts on 30 August and 6 September 2011

Members were asked to consider reports of the PLOS Walkabouts on 30 August 2011 and 6 September 2011

A copy was attached to the agenda. The following items were discussed and recommendations made:

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council arrange for a soil sample to be taken at Kitelands Park, to allow the installation of the new play equipment to go ahead. A certificate could then be obtained.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Ariel Runway be moved from Franklins to Grasmere. Franklins could then be developed for families.

Cllr B Briars mentioned that discussions had taken place around placing metal fencing around the flower bed at Franklins Rec.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that the metal fencing seemed to encourage vandalism. Prickly plants would be better.

Rob McGregor said that Town Council would be liable for any injuries caused by prickly plants.

Cllr B Briars said that Fairfield Recreation Ground needs work carrying out.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that the Pavilion roof needs some wire or something for protection against damage from cricket balls. 106 money could be used for maintenance and improvements.

Cllr B Briars asked about the floodlights that are waiting to be removed from Fairfield Recreation ground.

Rob McGregor said that Town Council needs to negotiate with companies about taking the lights down for the scrap value of the lights.

Cllr B Briars suggested that Town Council should write to owners to say that if they don't remove the lights within 28 days, Town Council would have them removed and pass the charge onto them.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter to the owners of the floodlights.

Cllr B Briars said that the area at the back of the Cricket pavilion needs improving.

Cllr Mrs W Smith replied that Town Council has already been in discussions with the Cricket club regarding development.

c. Outstanding 106 monies

Members were asked to consider outstanding 106 monies.

the It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council utilise remaining 106 monies for items **b**, and **e** as listed on the agenda.

d. Installation of Street Snooker

Correspondence was received asking if Town Council would consider Street Snooker in Biggleswade. Street Snooker is a new game which involves a kick wall product for parks and open spaces and was showcased at the World Snooker Championships in Sheffield this year.

As a permanent installation for parks and open spaces, Street Snooker requires a small footprint of just 8m x 11m and has already been purchased by a number of authorities.

Members were asked to consider installation of Street Snooker to utilise 106 outstanding monies.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that in the first instance, Members visit a site when Street Snooker is in use.

e. Installation of Parkour

Correspondence was received introducing Parkour, which is the art of travelling from one point to another, negotiating obstacles along the route such as buildings and street furniture as efficiently as possible. The new equipment is aimed at older children and is a renovation of the more conventional play equipment for younger children.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council find out what equipment is available and the costs involved of installation and maintenance.

f. Appeal by Biggleswade Town Council re Land East of Saxon Drive, Biggleswade

Correspondence was received regarding the dismissal of the Town Councils appeal re Land East of Saxon Drive, Biggleswade.

Cllr B Briars asked for a break down of the costs of the application.

Rob McGregor said that he would email them to him.

Cllr D Albane said that Town Council needs to think about what it wants.

Cllr T Woodward said perhaps Town Council could resubmit the application minus the Health Centre.

Cllr Mrs W Smith said that Council wants to ensure the area includes walks etc and that the land is protected for the residents of Biggleswade.

Cllr P Vickers said that realistically, as the area is surrounded by houses, he wouldn't be surprised if the area was developed for housing. We don't want it developed for industrial or commercial use. the land is owned by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that she and Cllr D Lawrence went to the appeal meeting where there were residents who were adamant about the wildlife in the area.

We should ask CBC if Town Council could buy the land at agricultural prices, and keep in reserve for a later date, maybe for recreation.

CBC agreed to that the land could be used as playing fields; it was the inspector that said 'no'.

Cllr B Briars said that Town Council should push to purchase the land.

Cllr D Albane agreed that Town Council should pursue the purchase and extend the linear wood, informal leisure and wildflower meadows etc.

Rob McGregor said that correspondence had been received from CBC declining Town Council offer of purchasing the area as agriculture land.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council write again to CBC to purchase the land.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Proposed Conditional Survey for the Cemetery Chapel Building at Drove Road, Biggleswade

Levitt Partnership had supplied a copy of the above survey, including drawings which were on display in the Chamber for viewing.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted but that Town Council needs to obtain costing's to be able to proceed.

6. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items were discussed during the public open session.