

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2012 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 P Vickers, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr I Bond, Cllr Mrs M Russell, Cllr D Albone, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr B Briars
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Louise Wilcox – Deputy Town Clerk
Sam Vernon – Biggleswade Chronicle
PCSO – Helen Randall
Members of the Public – 3 (one person stayed for part of the meeting only)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr Mrs W Smith and Cllr S Watkins

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests - there were no prejudicial interests declared

(a) Personal Interests - Cllr P F Vickers registered an interest as members of the Central Bedfordshire Management Development Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Town Mayor's announcements

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

5. BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Bedfordshire Constabulary provided crime figures for the period 1/4/2012 – 22/04/2012 which showed the following:

Arson – there have been a few arson attacks in the Biggleswade area, one is the Biggleswade Football Club, Fairfield Road, the location seems to have targeted and the police are now watching this location.

Vehicle Crime – On 10 April in Wilsheres Road/Rose Lane/High Street and London Road area attempted thefts from motor vehicles

Burglary – On 8 April burglary at Gladstone Close, believe a window was left open and no forced entry was seen.

10 April – Attempted burglary in Saffron Road, Biggleswade – damage was caused but no access gained

10 April there was a theft of some metal at a property in Boddington Gardens – suspects have been named

18 April – Burglary in Langford Road, Biggleswade

Robbery – Lawrence Road – offender has been arrested

Fairfield Road – under investigation

Events – The community event at Asda, Church street with the community safety group on 7 April went well, crime advice was offered and vehicle checks carried out to ensure that no valuables were left in vehicle.

Results:

12 vehicles were seen to have vulnerable property

2 people wanted to join Neighbourhood Watch

10 Leaflets to join Community Safety Group given

6. INVITED SPEAKERS

There was no invited speaker.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 March 2012 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Item 2 (a) – Personal interests – Cllrs R Skinner, B Briars, I Bond and G Wilson interest declared to be amended to read - Grant no 9 – Biggleswade **Twinning Association**

- b. Members **approved the recommendations** of the Public Land and Open Spaces meeting held on 27 March 2012 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Items as listed on the agenda:

5a. Request from Biggleswade United Football Club

Correspondence was received from Biggleswade United Football Club asking Town Council's agreement to the installation of a full size 3G All-Weather playing surface at Second Meadow, Fairfield Road.

Over the past fifteen years Biggleswade United have made significant and very impressive improvements to the pitch, changing rooms and general facilities at Second Meadow. This has been through tremendous support from the Biggleswade Town Council, MBDC (now CBC) and the Football Association. During these years together they have successfully bid for over £200,000 funding from the Football Foundation, together with funding from the Town and District Councils, has resulted in one of the best community sports facilities in Bedfordshire.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council agree to this installation and request that it would also be available for other sports. There would be no funding from Town Council.

5b. Installation of Parkour

At a meeting of the Public Land and Open Spaces Committee of the 10th January 2012 It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council find out what equipment is available and the costs involved of installation and maintenance and that outstanding 106 monies are utilised for this project.

For Committee to consider designs and quotations for the installation of Parkour.

This item was deferred as only 2 of the 3 quotes requested had been received.

5c. Adoption of Brunel Drive public open space.

At a meeting of the Public Land and Open Spaces Committee of the 10th January 2012 It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council may consider adopting the play area but only after seeing proposals for new play equipment from the developer.

For the Committee to consider the proposals (attached)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council approved the new play design for Brunel Drive and agree to adopt the play area and the grass surrounding, but not wish to adopt the steep banks next to the metal works or any other grass areas and that no shrubs are to be planted inside the perimeter.

5d. M.U.G.A Eagle Farm Road

A request was received from a member of the public asking the Committee to reinstate the

Goal that was removed from the M.U.G.A in Eagle Farm Road.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council refuse this request to re-instate the M.U.G.A.

5e. Biggleswade Cricket Club

A letter was received from a member of Biggleswade Cricket Club asking the Committee if they will assist the club in improving the facilities at the Cricket club.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that meeting be arranged with the Cricket Club and that Cllrs I Bond, G Wilson, R Skinner and Mrs W Smith attend.

5f. Fairfield Cricket Pavilion

At a meeting of the Public Land and Open Spaces Committee of the 10th January 2012 It was suggested that the Cricket Pavilion required protection from cricket balls The Town Clerk has obtained a cost.

The Committee considered the option and if they wished to proceed and obtain further quotations.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council **DO NOT AGREE** to this funding or obtaining any further quotations.

5g. Floodlights at Fairfield

At a meeting of the Public Land and Open Spaces Committee of the 10th January 2012 It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter to the owners of the floodlights. A letter was written to the secretary of Caldecote FC no response received.

Beds FA have asked other clubs if they would have any interest in the floodlights and positive responses have been received.

For the Committee to consider allowing beds FA to arrange for a suitable Club to remove the Lights at no cost to the Town Council.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council **AGREE** to the removal of the lights, within 4 weeks and at no cost to Town Council.

5h. Installation of Street Snooker

At a meeting of the Public Land and Open Spaces Committee of the 10th January 2012 It was **RECOMMENDED** that in the first instance, Members visit a site when Street Snooker is in use.

For Committee to consider if they wish to progress this matter.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council defer this item for now.

5i. Biggleswade Bowls Club

Biggleswade Town Bowls Club have asked if the Committee will consider resurfacing the Roadway into Drove Road recreation ground car park.

An estimate of the works will be available at the meeting.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council obtain 3 quotes for this work.

5j. Hose pipe ban

Members considered the implications of the hose pipe ban that is due to come into effect on 5 April 2012.

The Town Clerk says that Anglian Water advised Town Council that hanging baskets, cricket grounds etc are not be watered. The Town Clerk spoke with the environment agency and asked if Town Council can

draw water from the river as it owns the river banks at Franklins, Council were advised that they are permitted to draw twenty thousand litres a day from the river.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council extract water and use accordingly.

- c. Members received the Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 10 April 2012 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Page 3 – paragraph 6 – Cllr Mrs M Russell asked that the sentence be amended to read Stevenage **Borough Council**

Paragraph 14 – Cllr Mrs J Lawrence asked that ‘**plans is no more than a roundabout**’ and ‘**leave the traffic as it is**’ be removed from the minutes

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 March 2012 – Cllr Mrs M Russell said that the Joint Committee meeting paperwork and agenda sent out by CBC stated the wrong Town Council meeting date of 15 February and she had contacted CBC to correct the date.

CBC stated that Town Council has approved the draft terms of reference in relation to the Joint Committee when in fact Town Council has not seen or approved this document’

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that CBC Councillors had also intervened to ask for the paperwork to be corrected.

Cllr B Briars said we need to ensure that Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee come to Council.

Cllr D Lawrence said that they will come to Council for acceptance as laid out.
Cllr T Woodward said that they will not be up for discussion.

Cllr I Bond asked if Town Council had heard from ALDI after our Solicitor had written to them again.

Rob McGregor replied that there had been no response yet.

- b. Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 10 April 2012 –

Issues were raised relating to the minutes who said what, others organisations are picking up and using out of context.

It was **AGREED** that this item is taken back for Constitutional Review.

Cllr B Briars asked about the Compulsory Purchase issues that he raised at the Planning meeting of the 10 April 2012.

Rob McGregor said that a developer cannot use Compulsory Purchase, only Local Authorities have the power.

Cllr D Lawrence said that we need to fight for the correct roundabout and that we should unite for a correct roundabout.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that she seconded the proposal by Cllr D Lawrence, Highways agency have been a problem.

Cllr T Woodward said that he remembered the claim from Highways Agency that the A1 is not considered a major road and agreed that Town Council should make a statement.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that Town Council should write to CBC and enlist the help of our MP. There is only so far that we can go.

Cllr T Woodward said we should take up this proposal and send a copy to Alistair Burt MP, Highways dept, LXB and Wimpey.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 March 2012
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 March 2012

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Street Naming and Numbering – Land South of Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Correspondence was received from CBC confirming that they have received the above application for postal addresses for 103 dwellings – blocks 25,26,29,34,36 at Land South of Potton Road and a copy of the street plan is available for Members to view in the Council Chamber.

Members are asked to consider names for **seven streets** and suggest something perhaps historical.

It was **RESOLVED** that the theme of Scientists with the Cambridge connection is continued.

b. **Chubb Fire and Security**

Members were asked to consider the attached quotation from Chubb for essential work to be carried out on Town Councils fire alarm system.

The system is defective and requires replacing as soon as possible, the existing system is beyond repair as spares are no longer available as the system has been obsolete for some time.

Chubb propose to replace the existing system on a like for like basis using equipment from the leading manufactures Kentec and Apollo.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept this quotation under suspension of Standing Orders.

c. **Proof checking the Travel Choices Map for Biggleswade commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council**

Members were invited to proof check the draft document of a Travel Choice Map for Biggleswade. A copy was available to view in the Council Chamber.

The map is one of a number of Central Bedfordshire Council has commissioned for its larger towns from specialist provider 'Cycle City Guides'. Its purpose it to assist people plan local journeys and to help them to navigate their way around the area on foot, by bicycle or using public transport.

A response is requested by **4 May 2012**.

I was **RESOLVED** that CBC is advised that the development at Land East of Biggleswade, Williams Court and Shortmead Lane are missing from the map supplied.

12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Thank you letters received**

Thank you letters were received from various organisations who are in receipt of Grants from Town Council.

Copies were attached to the agenda.

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

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

14. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council resolve to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.