



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2019
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone
Cllr I Bond
Cllr K Brown
Cllr G Fage
Cllr L Fage
Cllr F Foster (Vice Chairman)
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M North
Cllr M Knight
Cllr R Pullinger
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr M Russell (Chairman)
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr J Woodhead

Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk
Mr P Truppin – Locum Clerk
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
Members of Public 3, including Simon Newton, Town Centre Operations Manager, BTC

B22/1001 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. Cllrs. Bond, Knight and Pullinger arrived slightly late having attended a meeting between residents and the developer of Land North of Potton Road.

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

B22/1002 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

B22/1002.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - None

B22/1002.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item:

Cllr D Strachan – Item 10c.
Cllr M Russell – Item 9b.
Cllr G Fage – Item 10a.
Cllr D Albone – Item 9d.
Cllr C Thomas – Item 9d.
Cllr I Bond – Item 11c.

B22/1003 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Cllr Russell attended the following events:

11th October: Presentation to CBC's Infrastructure & Development Board.

The IDB is a group of developers brought together by CBC, supported by their officers, including the Director of Regeneration, and chaired by a former senior civil servant. The focus for the meeting was development in the A1 corridor and the Mayor was invited to give the Town Council's viewpoint. Other Speakers were Jackie Sadek of UK Regeneration and Tom Leeming of Tritax Symmetry. The presentation was followed by questions and discussion.

17th October: Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils' AGM:

The AGM took place at Cople Village Hall and was very well attended., including four representatives from Biggleswade – Cllrs Ramsay, Knight, Thomas and Russell. The Mayor was re-elected to the County Committee for a further four-year term.

Just before the meeting the Mayor was approached by Brickhill Parish Council who wished to put forward a motion for debate. The motion was due to be seconded by Stewartby Parish Council, but they were unable to be present. The Mayor was asked to second, and after a brief discussion with Biggleswade colleagues, agreed to do so, in order that the motion could be debated. The motion was:

“That BATPC is concerned about the effect of repeated illegal encampments on councils and local communities and the cost and disruption incurred. We ask for better legislative means to deal with encampments, to prevent them when they arise and to sanction against those who repeatedly camp in unauthorized locations, and against the damage caused”.

The motion was carried by a substantial majority and the concerns will be sent to Bedfordshire unitary authorities and also to the National Association of Local Councils.

There were presentations on major infrastructure from Martin Tugwell, Programme Director, England's Economic Heartland.; Will Gallagher, Strategic Director, East West Rail, and Nicole Morris, Airspace and Noise Performance Manager, Luton Airport.

The Outline Transport Strategy for the Heartland is out for consultation until the end of the month and is available on their website. It was confirmed that an announcement on the preferred route for East West Rail is still expected before Christmas.

The presentation from Luton Airport showed that proposed new flight paths will affect Biggleswade and the surrounding area. The Mayor suggested that Nicole Morris be invited to the Town Council to give her presentation and that surrounding parishes be invited to send representatives.

B22/1004 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no comments from members of the public.

B22/1005 5. INVITED SPEAKER

Invited Speaker: Tom Leeming MSc MRICS,
Development Director of Tritax Symmetry.

Mr. Leeming gave a presentation covering the planned expansion of Stratton Business Park with the addition of offices and warehousing for the Co-Op.
Mr. Leeming took questions and will provide copies of his presentation which will be circulated to Councillors.

B22/1006 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no Members questions.

B22/1007 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

B22/1007.1 a. Members received and approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 08 October 2019 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

B22/1008 8. MATTERS ARISING

B22/1008.1 From the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 08 October 2019.

B22/1008.2 a. Cllr G Fage: **Item 11b – Bus Services in Biggleswade and East Bedfordshire:**
The Locum Clerk obtained the requested information and circulated this to Councillors by email.

b. **Item 13:** It was requested that the Minutes record that the Bedford train station car park closure reported by Cllr Whitaker, is a temporary measure whilst work is being undertaken and the situation will not be permanent.

B22/1009 9. CB/19/02871/FULL – Stratton Park Cottages, Dunton Lane, Biggleswade SG18 8QU

B22/1009.1 a. First floor side extension and single storey rear extension to connect main house with annex.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application providing 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 dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

24/0909.2 b. **CB/19/03129 – 5 Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade SG18 0AN**
Demolition of garage and rebuild with a first-floor level.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application providing 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 dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

B22/1009.3 c. **CB/19/03160/FULL – 4 Lincoln Crescent, Biggleswade SG18 8HW**
Alterations to existing conservatory roof structure replacing glazing with composite roof tiles.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application providing the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

B22/1009.4 d. **CB/19/03328/FULL – 36 Drove Road, Biggleswade SG18 8HD**
Erection of 3 No. dwellings.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds of highways safety due to increased traffic, and difficulty of access to Drove Road from the properties, plus poor access for emergency vehicles; also, noise pollution from Weatherley Centre.

B22/1010 10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

B22/1010.1 a. **Town Centre Management – Car Park Working Group**

The Car Park Working Group has met twice and provided a number of proposals including free parking on Saturdays pre-Christmas in November and December 2019. These proposals were to be presented to the next Town Centre Management Meeting (TCM) on the 15th November 2019, but in order to save time Council was asked to consider them now so that they can be implemented in November 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council trial the lifting of the parking restrictions for Saturday parking during November and December 2019. The results of the temporary restrictions will then be taken into consideration for parking review in the future.

B22/1010.2 b. **Biggleswade Joint Committee Terms of Reference**

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next Council Meeting for receipt of further information.

B22/1010.3 c. **Proposed New Speed Signs – Baden Powell Way**

Members received correspondence and plans supporting speed signs.

Mr Davies from the Biggleswade Community Safety Group attended the meeting in a public capacity and was able to update Councillors. He reported that the Community Safety Group had obtained funding, with no cost to the Council, for the installation of flashing speed signs. This has taken away the need for this area to be monitored by Speedwatch.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support these plans and thanked Biggleswade Community Safety Group for their work and support in this matter.

B22/1011 11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

B22/1011.1 a. Neighbourhood Plan – Progress Document

Members received the Neighbourhood Plan Progress document.

This information was **NOTED**.

B22/1011.2 b. OPCC Newsletter

Members received a copy of the Police and Crime Commissioners newsletter.

Cllrs Strachan and Bond had a very useful meeting with Chief Superintendent David Boyle. The information will be circulated to Councillors.

B22/1011.3 c. CB/TRE/19/00415 – 21 Hazel Walk, Biggleswade SG18 0HQ

Cllr I Bond is happy to speak to the tree surgeon regarding access to the tree, (which is on his land), in order to carry out this work.

B12/1012 12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

B22/1013 13. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

14a. Quotations

14b. Personnel Item for discussion

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.