



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2020
AT 7PM VIA ZOOM WEBINAR FUNCTION

PRESENT:

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

Mr P. Tarrant – Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Biggleswade Town Council
Mr P. Truppin – Assistant Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mrs S. van der Merwe – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council

Members of Public – 11

Meeting Formalities:

Following a reminder to meeting attendees, both panel and public, that this is a formal meeting, the Mayor advised that members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak during public open session but not at other times. The meeting is being filmed and by being present attendees are deemed to have agreed be filmed and to the use of those images and sound recordings. The Mayor advised that attendees should not disclose any personal information of individuals as this would infringe the Data Protection Rights of the individual. The Mayor asked everyone to mute their microphones when not speaking.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr H Ramsay.

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:

Cllr I Bond – Item 11a - Lindsell's Crossing.

b. **Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item:**

Cllr G Fage – Item 9d – Planning Application: 29 Market Square.

3. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

The IT Administrator advised members of the public wishing to speak to use the “raise hand” function on screen.

a. **Mr Paul How - Hallam Development**

Mr How has not seen any documents online displaying the public’s objections to Hallam’s proposed development. Members noted that further information should be available when the outline Planning Application is presented at Development Management Committee.

5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

None.

6. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None.

7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

Members received the minutes of the Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 25th August 2020**.

There were no amendments to be made and the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of **25th August 2020**.

a. **Page 3: Item 8a: Implementation of Parking Orders:** Members were informed that Central Bedfordshire Council’s Highways Team will contact the Town Clerk directly to resolve this.

b. **Page 5: Allotment Access Road:** Members requested an update on this matter. The Town Clerk advised that he would contact Central Bedfordshire Council for an update on BTC’s original request for information.

- c. **Page 5: Item 11c: Pedestrian Crossing: Potton Road:** Members noted that the pedestrian crossing has now been reinstated. However, residents have raised additional concerns about parking at the entrance to Nursery Close and Stratton Way at the beginning and end of the school day. Members had previously asked for CBC to monitor these parking issues. The Town Council have asked CBC for an update on resolving these issues.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. **CB/20/02905/FULL - 102 Sun Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0BZ**

Proposed rear extension & alterations to existing dwelling.

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.

b. **CB/20/02899/FULL – 87 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade, SG18 8PE**

Single storey side/rear extension.

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.

c. **CB/20/03030/OUT - Home Farm House, Dunton Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 8QU**

Erection of a detached dwelling and associated works.

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 dwelling is complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

d. **CB/20/02044/LB - 29 Market Square, Biggleswade, SG18 8AQ**

Listed Building: external paintwork to the ground floor retail space from turquoise blue to black surrounds.

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.

e. **CB/20/01393/VOC Land at the rear of 33 - 57 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT**

Variation to Condition 19 of Planning Permission CB/16/00181/FULL (Construction of 30 no. dwellings and associated road, demolition of commercial premises). Addition of working drawing for TH2 house type to approved plans RDC1034-TH2-200H.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECTS** to this planning application.

1. The objection is due to the height of the building.
2. The aesthetics of the building is overbearing and out of keeping to the original application.
3. The building is too close to the residential homes and have detrimental impact to adjacent residents.
4. Previous applications have been objected to for buildings of this height.

Councillors noted that this application has been “called in” for consideration at the Development Management Committee of CBC.

f. **CB/19/02827/PAPC - Land North of Biggleswade**

Development Brief relating to a residential scheme of around 400 dwellings at land north of Biggleswade, with access taken from Furzenhall Road.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Town Council **STRONGLY OBJECT** to this application for reasons set out in previous correspondences.

Council also agreed that Cllr G Fage would be appointed to represent BTC and to speak at the Development Management Committee Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft letter be approved, and that letter and the previous letter of objection be sent to the named planning officer and to the general planning address. Further, that a shorter version be circulated to Members of the CBC Development Management Committee for information.

10. ACCOUNTS

Members received and **ADOPTED** the following accounts:

- i. Lloyds Bank Payment listing 31/07/2020.

11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. **Lindsells Level Crossing, Biggleswade - Proposed closure Lindsells level crossing - Biggleswade Bridleway No. 11**

Members discussed the proposed closure of Lindsells Crossing and the creation of an alternative route via a new bridleway bridge.

It was felt that the crossing is an important part of the HIF bid and for the safety of residents. There are also upgrades to footpaths and bridleways and Members supported the proposed changes to enable access to the footbridge.

Members noted that the current plans had been agreed some time ago and that any delay to the HIF bid would be counter-productive.

Members **APPROVED** the proposal in its current format.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning Application Outcomes

Members **NOTED** the contents of the current outcomes document.

Members were informed that the landlord of 4 London Road now wishes to keep this property as a commercial space and is seeking new commercial occupants.

b. CB/20/00959/OUT - Land East of Biggleswade

Members were informed that hard copies of various documents are held in the Council offices for inspection.

Members **NOTED** the extra information submitted for the second outline planning application.

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow Members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

a. Cllr H Whitaker – Allotment Access Road

Members were advised that CBC had granted the developer the right to create the road and block off access until the building work had been completed. It was noted that this building work is expected to be completed within three years. Members were informed that once the development has been completed there will be a new access road and a rights of way plan will be sent to the Town Clerk. It was noted that there is considerable heavy plant and machinery using the road which poses a danger to pedestrians. Cllr H Whitaker suggested that the Town Council check the allotment lease issued from CBC to check on what access rights were initially given.

14. EXEMPT ITEMS

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.

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

- a. Purchase of Old Town Hall
- b. Land North of Biggleswade
- c. Drove Road Chapel Wall Repairs