

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2015 AT 10.00am
PRIORY HOUSE, MONKS WALK, CHICKSANDS
IN ROOM 14**

Present:	Cllr M Jones, Chairman	Deputy Leader CBC
	Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	Cllr CBC
	Cllr D Lawrence	Cllr CBC
	Mr R M McGregor	BTC Town Clerk
	Mr P Fraser	CBC
	Cllr M Russell	Cllr BTC
	Cllr H Ramsay	Cllr BTC
	Cllr I Bond (Substitute)	Cllr BTC
	Mr M Thomas	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
	Mr P Mason	Highways, CBC
	Cllr D Albone	Cllr BTC
	Cllr T Woodward	Cllr CBC
	Mr M Williams	Principal Traffic Manager CBC
	Ms K Russell	Amey Liaison Manager
	Mr A Clow	Amey
	Jan Durn	BTC Minute taker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Briars

2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – none declared
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none declared

3. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No members' questions were received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the BJC held on 24 June 2015.

P3. Cllr Mrs H Ramsay queried the frequency of the meetings. The Chairman explained that due to the urgency he will be leaving them as they are at the moment and will call another meeting if required if required.

P4. Sun Street Gyratory system:

Cllr Mrs M Russell asked that the Councillor's comments on the Sun Street – St Johns Street Gyratory and the 7.5 ton weight restriction on HGV's be included in the minutes.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

Item 9. Transport Interchange – negotiations still ongoing.

Item 10. Commuter Parking - Mr Paul Mason reported that due to the tremendous response, this information is still being evaluated.

6. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There was no report at this meeting

7. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of public attending the meeting

8. **MEMBERS BRIEFING – STRATTON STREET RAILWAY BRIDGE**

Stratton Street Railway Bridge: The Chairman said that this was a cause for concern and was the main reason for calling the Extraordinary meeting, Mr Angus Clow from Amey, and Ms Keely Russell, Amey Liaison Officer, have been invited to the meeting to update us on the current situation.

Mr Clow referred to the Briefing note which was circulated by email to the councillors prior to the meeting.

The Chairman asked if he would take us through this in more detail and answer any questions directed by the members.

Preliminary work on the bridge starts at midnight on 11th December and will finish at 9.00am the following morning. There may be periods of traffic lights during off peak times – these will be advised at a later date. At Christmas we have 55 hours of possession which is not sufficient to complete the job. As a result the bridge will be closed from the 13th December through to Easter.

The suggestion of a temporary bridge by Cllr Bond is unfortunately not possible as the installation of this would take same amount of time as putting the new one in place.

Chairman asked if extra time can be obtained from Network Rail as the closure of the road from the 13th December until Easter 2016 was unacceptable. The Chairman will write to Alistair Burt to ask if he can intervene in this issue and bring any pressure to bear with Network Rail.

It was felt that this timing will cause considerable damage to the Town at Christmas time.

The Chairman reiterated the need for the Council to have this information before it is put on the website. We also need to tie down the Utilities as to the times when services will be cut off, as this will not only affect the traders/shops, but also the residents and members of the public.

Mr Clow passed round a “first pass” of the proposed diversion road which is an initial map for consultation. There will be signed diversions for HGV’s. Mr Williams stated that a dry-run of the proposed route will be carried out by a bus in order to see if there are any problems. The emergency services will also be consulted so that they can take measures for the emergency vehicle access. This exercise will serve as good practice for the gyratory system proper.

The Chairman explained that this is a democratic process and as this is a “first pass” he would like to know when we will receive a final version. He stressed that it is vital for the Council to have this information before it is made public on the website.

Mr M Thomas will require the information for traders and shops as they will need to make appropriate arrangements for staff if utilities are to be shut down. Parking facilities will also need to be looked at, with extended times to the waiting periods on roadside parking. Mr Thomas said that due to the inconvenience it is likely that traders will be seeking rate relief as was previously provided during the town enhancement programme. Traders will therefore need to know this information as soon as possible.

The Chairman asked Mr Clow to write to Mr P Mason with this information as soon as it is available.

Mr Clow and Ms Russell stressed that they are available to attend any meetings as required to discuss and explain this issue.

Signage will need to be changed, for example Taylor Wimpey’s new development signs will need to be redirected. Mr Williams said that Highways England would be responsible for this and would discuss matrix signage if required.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman will be arranging a further meeting to discuss this topic. This will be a “Working Group”, and will take place during the latter part of the week of August 10th. The Chairman will notify the date to members as soon as possible.

The discussion will be as follows:

- The members to look at the re-routing plans provided
- The members to look at the PR Plan provided
- Mr Michael Williams and Ms Keely Russell to give a presentation and answer any questions from the members.

The next meeting of the Joint Management Committee proper will then be on the 21st October 2015.

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Chairman