

Minutes of a meeting of the Biggleswade Joint Committee
held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 – 10.00am in Room 13
At Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG175TQ

PRESENT:

Cllr M Jones	Deputy Leader CBC (Chair)
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence Cllr	CBC
Cllr D Lawrence	Cllr CBC
Mr P Fraser	CBC
Mr P Salmon	CBC
Mr M Williams	CBC
Cllr Mrs M Russell	Cllr BTC
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay	Cllr BTC
Cllr M Foster	Cllr BTC (Sub for Cllr D Albone)
Cllr B Briars	Cllr BTC
Cllr T Woodward	Cllr CBC
Mr M Thomas	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
Mr M Thorn	Deputy Town Clerk, BTC
Mrs J Durn	Minute Taker, BTC

Also present:

Cllr I Bond Member of Public

Ms L White CBC Regeneration Team, for item 14

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Albone.

2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

To receive from members any declarations and the nature in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item: None received
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item: None received

3. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

To receive questions from members on items not already included on the agenda. Questions should relate to the terms of reference of the Joint Committee and be submitted at least two working days before the meeting.

Please note that no more than three questions will be responded to per meeting.

Mr M Thomas asked if there was any news on the transport interchange. The Chairman hopes to have an update for the next meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received and approved the minutes of the BJC held on 26 October 2015.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from the minutes of the BJC held on 26 October 2015.

Page 2, item 5: Is there an update on the possibility of relocating the Bridal Specialist.

The Chairman reported that this matter has reached a satisfactory and amicable solution with the owner of this business.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- The new Ivel Medical Centre opened on Monday and we are very pleased with this outcome.
- The Tidy tip will re-open on the 15th February.

7. STRATTON STREET BRIDGE UPDATE

Mr M Williams gave an update:

Unfortunately, although adverse weather conditions have played an integral part in the work schedule, it is important to stress that much positive work was completed at Christmas. At the moment we have a one month slippage, with work due for completion at the end of May. However, CBC is working closely and successfully with Network Rail in order to negotiate more possessions and keep the situation under control.

Members felt that lack of information has a negative impact on the town and would have liked to receive an update so that this could be shared with public and traders.

Following this meeting, the Chairman will be issuing a press release. The information will also be available on the website.

8. GYRATORY SUN STREET – St JOHNS STREET

Mr M Williams gave an update:

We will be looking at a 6-month trial period from May 2016 in order to monitor the gyratory system.

This information will be on the Council website so that public are aware.

Concerns over confusing signage for the Eastern Relief Road will be addressed with the contractors.

It was generally felt that the one-way system at the Baulk was a success and consideration should be given to keeping this in place permanently. BTC has previously asked for CBC to consider chicanes along this road in order to address speeding traffic and parking issues. Mr Williams said that the Designers are taking this into account, and have been asked by CBC to relax some of the designs in order to incorporate parking and other concerns.

It is also requested that signage in the town is looked at, as misleading signs saying that the High Street is closed gives the wrong impression. It is the road that is closed and not the High Street.

The one-way system at Back Street appears to be working well and is safer for traffic.

The traffic light priorities for the lights at Crab Lane are being regularly monitored.

ACTION: The Chairman will take forward an action to review one-way systems in Back Street and the Baulk at the same time as the Gyratory system at the end of May.

9. LIMITS ON HGV's

Enforcement has been taken seriously. There has been deliberate flouting by HGV's which has resulted in a driver losing his job.

Concerns were once again raised regarding the road signage, which it was felt does not make the situation clear. Once a 7.5 ton lorry has been misdirected, it is difficult to correct. This will be looked into.

10. BIGGLESWADE PARKING – STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Item brought by BTC regarding Zone D Osprey Road with a request to re-canvas the Osprey Road residents. Mr Salmon stated that all residents had been consulted and work is being progressed.

Item brought by BTC regarding Zone F Ivel Gardens with a request for inclusion of double yellow lines along Ivel Gardens as far as the raised bed by the Church car park.

The Chairman has been asked by CBC Officers to obtain confirmation from BTC that they can now implement the findings provided by the consultation.

ACTION: BJC Members confirmed that the Chairman can take back confirmation, together with a request that the work is started as soon as possible.

11. MAUNDER AVENUE

The Developer has contacted residents and as a result most pots and additional items have been removed from the grass verge. This has however resulted in a further problem of residents parking on the now clear grass verge. The Developer will be installing posts to restrict parking.

12. LAND EAST OF BIGGLESWADE PROPOSED CROSSINGS

The requested additional crossing is due to be implemented during the February half term. It was confirmed that it is a zebra crossing with beacons on London Road.

13. LAND EAST OF BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY HALL

CBC have not yet received final completion details of the Community Hall from the developer and will therefore be unable to take this to the Executive Committee for official approval until the next meeting on the 5th April 2016.

As the hand-over will not take place until after this date, it was suggested that BTC obtain an operating licence in order to use the building beforehand. BTC will ask the developer to retain the temporary building on that site until the main hall is ready to be officially run by BTC.

14. LAND EAST OF BIGGLESWADE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Lisa White joined the meeting and circulated copies of plans covering the public open spaces. CBC have received an approach from an interested party who would like to bid for the installation of a 3G pitch, together with the running of three separate sites for sporting fixtures, and large combined play areas with appropriate landscaping.

The deadline for receipt of this bid is 31st January 2016. CBC will then consider this proposal, together with any others received.

It is important for the Biggleswade Joint committee to be involved in any decisions concerning public open spaces, and it was suggested that Lisa is invited to attend the next Town Council Meeting in order to explain what is on offer. It was also suggested that a pre-meeting be convened with CBC Officers and BJC Councillors to discuss this as a matter of urgency.

15. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

15 minutes for members of the public to make statements.

- Cllr I Bond asked if there was any progress with the reversal of Hitchin Street. The Chairman stated that there was no further news.