



BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2019,
AT 14.30– BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone	BTC
Cllr T Stock	CBC
Cllr M Foster	BTC
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	CBC (Chairman)
Cllr D Lawrence	CBC
Ms S Hughes	CBC
Cllr Mrs M Russell	BTC
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay	BTC
Cllr B Briars	BTC
Cllr M Foster	BTC
Cllr I Bond	BTC
Cllr S Watkins	BTC/CBC
Mr G Jones	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
Mr R McGregor	Town Clerk BTC
Mr M Thorn	Deputy Town Clerk BTC
Mrs J Durn	Administrator BTC

Also Present:

Cllr F Foster	Member of Public
Cllr M North	Member of Public
Ms C Birtwhistle	Biggleswade Community Safety Group

A27/02/01 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P Salmon.

A27/02/02 2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

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

A27/02/03 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Members received and approved the Notes of the BJC held on 15 November 2018.

A27/02/04 4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

A27/02/05 5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Ms Carol Birtwhistle From the Biggleswade Community Safety Group: When will the road surface at Rose Lane on both sides of the traffic lights be repaired. This has been reported to CBC. Is there a timescale for the repairs?

Cllr Watkins will take these questions back to CBC.

A27/02/06 6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no announcements.

A27/02/07 7. GROWTH AND REGENERATION FUNDING

Update from Ingrid Hooley, CBC

CBC have put in an Expression of Interest to Homes England and Ministry of Housing to say that extra investment is needed to cover power, roads, schools and services for the increasing population, and to future-proof the town.

Ingrid and team are currently working on a Business Case to present to Homes England and Ministry of Housing by the 22 March deadline. CBC are confident that their application for funding will be approved

Members are concerned about the station transport interchange and parking provision and asked if the bid goes any way towards step free access, which they feel should take precedent over the Lindsell crossing.

Ingrid assured members that CBC are raising the profile of both this, and the insufficient power situation, by working closely with UK Power and Homes England to ensure our case for funding is successful.

A27/02/08 8. REVIEW OF CBC ON STREET RESIDENTIAL PARKING SCHEMES

Members were extremely disappointed to hear that Paul Salmon has sent last minute apologies and will not be attending the meeting. It was also noted that no written update was provided for this item.

Several Councillors had made themselves available for this meeting as they had concerns to address with Mr Salmon; in particular, the parking situation on the Birds Estate, which is now extremely dangerous with no chance for emergency vehicles to gain access. A review of this is long overdue.

The Chairman noted these and other comments and would like them put forward to Marcel Coffait as a formal complaint from the Members.

A27/02/09 9. YELLOW LINES – VARIOUS SITES IN BIGGLESWADE:

Sara Hughes from CBC: Reported that the road lining work had been carried out. However, Councillors disputed this and said that the lines are

short by 2m in Fairfield Road, and 8m in Shortmead Street, and still needed completion. Sara will take this information back.

Mr Jones, Chamber of Trade, suggested that the yellow lines be extended around the bus depot in the market square. However, this piece of road has never been adopted and CBC Highways need to be reminded to sort this out.

A27/02/10 10. TOWN CENTRE DECLUTTERING:

A meeting regarding the use of A-Boards will take place between Biggleswade Council and Biggleswade shopkeepers next week. The results of this will be brought to the next meeting for information.

A27/02/11 11. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LONDON ROAD:

We have been told by CBC that the pedestrian crossing at London Road will be built in the new financial year (by May 2019) and signs will be placed on the Baulk to manage the situation.

We will continue to monitor this item.

Councillors stressed the importance of a crossing and requested that the work be planned to cause the least disruption to the town. The Traffic Lights at Rose Lane also need attention as they are only letting a few cars through at a time and are therefore causing gridlock in the town. This has been requested many times before.

The crossing at the bottom of London Road is dangerous. BTC requested a pelican crossing but have been given a zebra. If finance is an issue, BTC would remind CBC that they have repeatedly offered financial assistance.

Parents of children attending Edward Peake school have emailed BTC Councillors and Alistair Burt with their safety concerns regarding unsupervised crossings. Cllr Patel has raised a petition supporting a crossing to manage the situation.

Sarah Hughes will take these concerns back to CBC.

A27/02/12 12. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – HITCHIN STREET & SHORTMEAD STREET:

BTC Councillors would like to know when maintenance to Hitchin Street will be dealt with. They would like the work done as soon as possible.

It was reported that the work on the High Street is now at financial target costing stage and once this is agreed with the Contractor, Ringway Jacobs, then the work will commence. There are a number of road signs that are not facing the right way, and BTC requested that these are attended to as soon as possible.

A27/02/13 13. TRANSFER OF STREET LIGHTS:

Ownership now transferred to CBC, and maintenance work is currently being carried out.

A27/02/14 14. BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE:
Cllr Tracey Stock, CBC

Cllr Stock talked through the document explaining the proposed new terms of reference for Joint Committees. Following discussions between CBC Officers and Town Clerks on the importance of Joint Committee meetings, it has been decided that these Committees do serve a purpose and are of great value. Three main points to note are:

Branding, ie. Joint branding
Reporting mechanism to take actions required to Central Beds
Review Terms of Reference to unify these

Cllr Stock will circulate the document to the Members for comments.

A27/02/15 15. BIGGLESWADE SKATE PARK CONSULTATION
Update by Mr Howard Hughes, CBC Activity Lifestyles Manager.

A draft Business Plan has been completed. This site is still with the NHS. We are continuing to move this forward

A27/02/16 16. BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN
Ms Sarah Hughes, CBC

Explained the new procedure and purpose of the Committee Work Plan. It was felt beneficial to have a work plan of items coming forward on the Agenda so that these can be fed back into CBC/Council.

Subjects can be condensed into regular updates:
Town Centre Decluttering
Parking
Green Wheel
Highways maintenance
Health and Social Services
Growth/Regeneration/HIF

Regarding the transfer of Chambers Way – Howard Hughes will pick this up with the Assets team in March to get clearer picture.

A27/02/17 17. BJC MEETING DATES 2019/20

Rob McGregor and Sarah Hughes will set future dates and the Agenda for the next meeting of the BJC planned for 22 May 2019.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Cllr F Foster: It was mentioned some weeks ago that Hitchin Street would be reversed, is there any update on this?

Comments on this are currently being taken into consideration and we will be kept informed of the outcome.