



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2017
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone (Chair)
Cllr P Biernis
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr J Medlock
Cllr M North
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay
Cllr Mrs M Russell
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr S Watkins
Cllr T Woodward

Mr R McGregor - Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mrs J Durn – Meetings Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council

Members of Public – 6 (including 3 Council staff)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a)** Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item - none
- (b)** Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item - none

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

4. 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, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

There were no questions from members of the public.

5. INVITED SPEAKER

There is no Invited Speaker.

6. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Mrs M Russell asked that paperwork be printed double-sided where possible, in order to save paper for those who still have paper copies.

7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received and approved the **Recommendations** and **Resolutions** of the Public Lands and Open Spaces (PLOS) meeting held on 21 March 2017 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. From the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14 March 2017:

Page 2, item B0206.1: Cllr B Briars asked if there had been an update on the traffic light situation in Rose Lane, as traffic is still not flowing correctly.

The Town Clerk has emailed a request to CBC and will chase up a response.

Page 3, item B0208.1: traffic parked on grass verges. The Town Clerk has emailed a request to CBC and will chase up a response.

Once the Town Clerk has received responses to the above, these items will be brought back to the Agenda.

Page 5, item B0210.1: Arrangements for furnishing the Orchard Community Hall: Cllr M Foster asked for an update. The Town Clerk reported that the hand-over has been delayed due to a dispute regarding payment of commuted sums. In the meantime, the staff has been working hard to ensure that we have quotations for items required, and that these will be ready for delivery as soon as we are in possession of the keys. There has been a concerted effort by all staff to get the hall up and running as soon as possible.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **CB/17/01023/FULL – 115 London Road, Biggleswade**
Demolition of existing building and structures. Erection of a one to two and half storey 70-bedroom residential care home (Use Class C2) and associated access, parking and landscaping.

This item was taken in conjunction with item 11e of the Agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this application because there is likely to be insufficient parking to cater for the needs of staff, visitors and visiting health workers.

That the proposed access, egress is too close to the existing pedestrian crossing and a redesign of the scheme should be considered.

- b. **CB/17/01084/ADV – Unit K, A1 Retail Park, London Road, Biggleswade**
Advertisement: Fascia sign on unit K together with No.2 vinyl applied to inside face of shop front glazing together with No. 4 to be located on the Landlord's Signage Towers fronting the main roads.

It was **RESOLVED** to raise **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

- c. **CB/17/01165/FULL – Millennium House, 85 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**
Conversion of existing dwelling into 6 No. apartments.

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this application on the grounds of insufficient parking for the proposed scheme.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members received the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 28 February 2017.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Income and Expenditure by budget heading.
- iv. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 28 February 2017.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Accounts detailed above were adopted.

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Co-Option of Town Councillors**

Following the receipt of seven applications, Members were asked to consider and vote for candidates for co-option to Town Council.

The results of the ballot were:

Grant Fage – Holme Ward
Sarju Patel – Ivel Ward

Applicants will be informed of the Council decision, and a letter of invitation will be sent to Mr Fage and Patel, to attend the next Council Meeting on 11th April 2017.

b. **Signposting of new footpaths in Biggleswade Town Centre**

At the Town Centre Management (TCM) meeting of 21 February 2017, Members were asked to consider a request from Adam Maciejewski, Senior Definitive Map Officer, CBC, as to whether Biggleswade Town Council would wish every footpath to be signposted with green signs, or if we would consent to only key routes with destination signs being

At the TCM It was **RESOLVED** that only key routes are signed with destinations signs; that Adam Maciejewski suggest key routes to take back before Town Council, and that no works take place until a report has been received on the proposed decluttering of the Town Centre.

Orders have now been made to add footpaths to the Definitive Map, subject to any objections received by CBC. A map of the Biggleswade Excluded Area is attached to this Agenda, which shows the routes and suggested signs for key routes.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members agreed the signage for key routes suggested by Adam Maciejewski.

c. **Request for Works to Trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order – CB/TRE/17/00094 – Biggleswade Baptist Church, 24 London Road, Biggleswade**

CBC has received an application to carry out Works to trees Protected by a Preservation Order: Lime trees (3 No.) to rear of site – reduce the trees to the same height as adjoining trees and as pollarded trees at the front of the site. Trees protected by TPO reference MB/TPO/01/00007 T8, T9 & T10.

This information was **NOTED.**

d. **Housing Policy White Paper – Consultation**

Members considered the attached NALC Policy Briefing which highlights relevant sections of the Government's recently published *Housing White Paper*, together with a template response form prepared by NALC.

Members would like to feed responses into the Consultation, and agreed that in view of the timescale, there was time to arrange a separate meeting to look at this, following which, collective responses can be made by the requested date of 28 April 2017.

Town Clerk to arrange a meeting.

e. **Proposed Development of Mantle Site**

Further to the Town Council Meeting of 14 March 2017, under Item B0210.2 b, several points of concern were a raised regarding a proposed redevelopment of land on the Mantle Site. Members are asked to consider pre-planning application concerns.

This item has been covered under 9a, where objections have been raised.

f. **Proposed Development of Saxon Drive**

Further to the Town Council Meeting of 14 March 2017, under Item B0210.2 b, several points of concern were a raised regarding a proposed redevelopment of land on Saxon Drive. Members were asked to consider pre-planning application concerns, and raised the following concerns and objections:

That Biggleswade Town Council raise strong **OBJECTIONS** on the following grounds:

- Strong objections to the development of that area
- It is the other side of a dangerous/fast road
- It is separate to the existing community
- Development will cause precedent
- Part of the site is a flood plain/subject to flooding
- Local Plan not in place, therefore this is premature
- Outside development envelope as it currently exists
- There may be a covenant
- Lack of infrastructure for the town to cope

12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning Application Outcomes**

Attached report of the Planning Application Outcomes as at 22 March 2017.

This information was **NOTED.**

b. Central Bedfordshire Highways Rural Match Funded Capital Scheme

A copy of the letter received from the Principal Highways Officer is attached to this agenda.

Members were pleased to receive this news. This information was **NOTED.**

c. Road Investment Strategy 2020 - 2025

Members received a Report of the fourth Stakeholder Reference Group meeting held 1 March 2017, provided by Cllr Mrs M Russell.

Members thanked Cllr Mrs M Russell for the excellent and informative Report. This information was **NOTED.**

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.

- Mr Dilley: Regarding roads: The condition of the roads in Biggleswade is unacceptable, even where repairs to potholes have been made, these have re-appeared within weeks.
- Mr Bacon: I have watched so-called repairs taking place and have actually witnessed the workman treading in the tarmac with his feet. It is a total waste of time and money.
- Mr Bacon: Why don't the Council put out a notice to say that they are going to be drawing the yellow lines, and not simply draw round the parked vehicles? Also, regarding parking in Station Road, the sign is the wrong way!

Cllr Mrs M Russell commented that there doesn't seem to be any control over the contractors who undertake this work. She has spoken to Gary Baldwin on this point and understands that the implementation will not be complete until 18 April.

14. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

(15 a Minutes Council 14 March 2017)

(15 b Exempt PLOS Recommendations and Resolutions 21 March 2017)

(15 c Staff Matters)

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.