

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2014 – 10:00am AT PRIORY HOUSE, MONKS
WALK, CHICKSANDS, SHEFFORD IN ROOM 13**

Present:

Cllr M Jones	Deputy Leader CBC
Mr S Caldbeck	Projects Officer CBC
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	Cllr CBC
Cllr D Lawrence	Cllr CBC
Cllr T Woodward	Cllr CBC
Mr G Lawrence	Town Plan Steering Group
Mr R McGregor	BTC Town Clerk
Cllr I Bond	Cllr BTC
Mr M Thomas	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay	Cllr BTC
Cllr Mrs M Russell	Cllr BTC
Mr P Fraser	HOP&CE, CBC
Cllr W Smith	Cllr BTC
Cllr G Wilson	Cllr BTC
Miss M Beckwith	Minute Taker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received

2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any interests and their nature in relation to any Personal interests on the agenda and any Personal and Prejudicial interests in any agenda item.

None were declared

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A correction to the minutes of the 16th October 2013; matters arising page 2 line 7; change the word committee to read meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

M.R asked for an update on weight limits and bus routes along Hitchin Street; to be brought forward to the Biggleswade Joint Committee 23rd April 2014.

M.R asked for an update on the TROs for Sun Street – Shortmead Street; The Chairman informed members that the request from Town Council for TROs would have to go before the next Traffic Management Meeting for a decision and asked

that in future the Town Clerk copy any requests to Central Bedfordshire Council to the Chairman.

H.R asked for an update on the Saxon Pool extension; the Chairman informed Saxon pool will go ahead without the addition of a spa.

H.R asked if a further Business Breakfast had been arranged.

The next business breakfast will take place in April/May, once the parking strategy has been completed.

Dates will be circulated.

5. ELECTION OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

None Present

8. TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

Sam circulated a written summary update.

Work is progressing well; Network Rail approvals carried out with no issues.

Three areas of land need to be secured and they are currently under negotiation. The full scheme should be delivered in 2015.

Discussions with residents who will be directly affected by the scheme will take place prior to any final design.

BTC would like to be updated ahead of any other local groups.

Sam Caldbeck or James Gleave to attend the Town Council meeting on the 11th February to provide an update on the Transport Interchange project.

9. PARKING STRATEGY

Cllr Madeline Russell outlined BTC's response to the Parsons Brinckerhoff parking strategy and tabled a report with their response. This was discussed and it was agreed the best way forward was for BTC and CBC to work together to develop a way forward. It was agreed that ASDA should be involved and the numbers of spaces in some car parks should be checked.

10. IVEL MEDICAL CENTRE

Meaningful discussions are ongoing with the Ivel Medical Centre.

11. LAND EAST FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAY

Cllr Mrs W Smith provided a written report of what was discussed in Land East Scheme meeting regarding the maintenance and implementation of the Green Areas. In summary, BTC are keen to takeover maintenance should the developers hand over responsibility for the land. It is hoped that two areas to be landscaped will be ready for next year.

12. BIGGLESWADE CENTURY HOUSE

Development of Century house was discussed and CBC reported it will be investigating, in the next financial year, what uses might be found for the building. Any discussions will involve BTC and all options can be explored as long as they are economically feasible and viable.

The Chairman asked that this go on a future agenda once Sam has more concrete plans.

13. Proposed Development – Land North of Potton Road

The TC has been briefed from developers who raised points on public open space, parking and footpath links.

It is believed a survey of one way traffic in Sun Street and St Johns Street would help with the increased traffic. BTC have offered to part funded the work and the Chairman agreed to pursue this course of action.

The committee raised an issue with the delays in the Ivel Bridge repairs as work is also due to start on the long about at the Southern end of Biggleswade, therefore causing potential problems when entering and exiting Biggleswade. The Chairman stated that work should be finished in February.

14. Private Hire and Taxi Licencing Issues

There has been an issue of taxi firms licences for six seated taxis not being renewed due to health and safety rules.

Peter suggested that this may be due to the taxi firm purchasing new vehicles as the new health and safety regulations apply to new cars. There was no knowledge of taxi renewals being denied.

The Chairman recommended this matter to be brought to the licencing committee.