

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th October 2014 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs H Ramsay (Chair), Cllr I Bond, Cllr P Biernis, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr Ms Sarah Mulchrone, Cllr M North, Cllr B Rix, Cllr Mrs M Russell, Cllr G. Wilson
Rob McGregor - Town Clerk
Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk
Angela Thomas - Administrator

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr S Watkins, Cllr B Briars, Cllr Mrs W Smith and Cllr T Woodward.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None declared.
- b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr Mrs M Russell declared an interest in item11d.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Mrs M Ramsay confirmed the Macmillan Coffee Morning raised a total of £226.06 for their charity, and thanked the Council and staff for their support.

On the 29th September Cllrs Mrs H Ramsay and Mrs M Russell attended the High Sheriff's Service for her Majesty's Judges.

On the 7th October attended the ASD annual event in aid of Autism

On 10th October Cllr Mrs H Ramsay opened the new wing at the Beaumont Park Nursing Home

Both Cllr Mrs H Ramsay and Cllr Mrs M Russell attended the Ampthill Town Council Civic Service on the 12th October.

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Duncan Strachan raised concerns about the right of way through the Crown Hotel. Barriers had been put up which were occasionally taken down, however it has been a public right of way for a very long time.

Jane Croot said that the History Society and the Town Council had not been consulted, they should have received a letter from Central Bedfordshire Council. The History Society have evidence that this has been a right of way since 1832.

5. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no Speaker.

6 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr G Wilson had tried to have a meeting with the Chief Constable regarding crime matters. He has received an email from Inspector Evans PA apologising for not getting back sooner and asking GW to contact him to arrange a meeting.

He shall be contacting Inspector Evans to arrange a meeting, and any information will be added to the agenda for the next Council Meeting (28th October).

7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 September 2014 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 September 2014.

Since the launch of the new Town Council Facebook, Cllr Mrs M Russell mentioned that the Christmas Fair has received some negative comments, however good comments have also been raised.

MR stated that BTC had moved into the modern world very gingerly and we have a Facebook page as a form of communication with a link to the BTC web site.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence raised concerns about the sale of alcohol in the Market Square at the Christmas Fair.

Cllr Ms S Mulchrone asked whether the Town Council should have a Temporary Events Notice for the sale of Mulled Wine at the Christmas Fair.

The Town Clerk stated he believed it was not a requirement, however Cllr Mrs H Ramsay confirmed that the Council will look into it.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/14/03696/FULL – 120 Holme Court Avenue**

Single storey rear extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- b. **CB/14/03503/FULL – West Sunderland Farm, Dunton Lane**

Install external wall insulation to the outside walls. The existing walls are brick, the proposed wall will be smooth rendered.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- c. **CB/14/03168/MW – Biggleswade Golf Range, Hill Lane, Old Warden, Biggleswade**

Variation of conditions 1,4,6,10,11,19 and 21 of planning permission 18/2009 to introduce a revised and form and changes to the phasing scheme, landscaping scheme, drainage strategy, programme of archaeological investigation, layout of wheel cleaning system and dust suppression scheme.

A copy of the conditions will be on display in the Chamber for Members to view.

The Town Council noted this application as it was not within the Parish boundary.

b. No Cold Calling sign request

Town Council has received a request from a resident for a 'No Cold Calling' sign to be erected in Kingfisher Close, Biggleswade.

A copy was attached to the agenda.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that we had a proposal some years ago, and believed we had notices put up in the town. Rather than having signs on individual streets, we should reiterate that the whole town is a no cold calling zone. Signs were placed at the main entrances to the Town as previously agreed.

We should write to the resident to say that we will check the signs and replace if needed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk check the existing signs and write to the resident informing of Town Councils decision.

c. Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

CBC has received an application from Studham Parish Council to designate the parish as a 'Neighbourhood Area'. A successful designation will mean that the Parish Council can proceed to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan together with the Community, if they will to do so.

If Members have any objections to the **extent of the area only** please send them to LDF@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or addressed to the Development Plan Process Team at the following address: Development Plan Process Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds SG17 5TQ. Comments should be received by **17 November 2014**.

This item was noted.

d. Work to a tree Protected by a Preservation Order: Prune one Sycamore tree located to the side of the property. The tree is within Preservation Order Ref: MB/TPO/09/00002 and is listed as T1 – Located 30 Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade, SG18 0AN.

CBC has received an application to carry out work to preserved tree(s) at the above property. If Members wish to comment on the application, please do so in writing within 21 days of the date of this letter quoting the above application number.

No **objections** were raised for this Preservation Order.

e. Correspondence

Correspondence has been received from a resident of Biggleswade; Reference Planning Application CB/14/03125/FULL, asking the Town Councils views on the current and future obstruction of public access through the Crown Hotel and to ask what the Town Council have done to protect the interests of residents in this matter. (Copy of correspondence attached to this agenda).

No **comment** was raised by the Members of the Town Council as this was discussed under 9 g. The Town Clerk to write back to Darren Woodward to confirm this has been discussed at the Council Meeting.

f. Public Spaces Protection Orders

Following the Town Council meeting 9th September 2014 where it was **RESOLVED** to contact CBC and the Police to obtain further guidance and details on the legislation, correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Police and a copy of the Legislation was attached to the agenda.

Cllr B Rix stated that plans to use dispersal orders in the Town Centre, with a possible follow up with protection orders, was a good initiative and generally we must congratulate the Town Clerk and everyone involved this initiative.

g. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Adam Maciejewski, Senior Definitive Map Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council.

Adam has contacted the Town Council concerning the passageway through the Crown Hotel, Biggleswade. As part of his research Adam is asking the Town Council for any information they might have on whether the Crown Hotel passageway has been historically maintained by either the Town Council or the Biggleswade Urban District Council, and when the Abbots Walk route was opened up and made available for public use, who currently owns it as it does not appear to be a public right of way or publicly maintainable, (copy of the correspondence was attached to the agenda).

Cllr Mrs M Russell agreed we should use any evidence on the right of way from the History Society.

Cllr D Lawrence stated; when Asda was built planning and title did not match, the plan was to open up Abbots Walk with funding provided from the Asda development, the funding was held and we need to investigate this.

Cllr D Albone informed members that there used to be a plaque in Abbots Walk that mentioned the developer, possibly Hunting Gate Homes.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Biggleswade Green Wheel Update – September 2014

Following the Council meeting held on 9 September (item 10e), it was **resolved** that BRCC be contacted for an update on the Green Wheel cycleway.

An update was received and attached to this agenda.

Cllr B Rix I am delighted to read about new access being launched in 2015. Cllr B Rix also noted there was an error on the attachment as it should read 2015 and not 2014 for the completion date.

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

John Oliver said that a lot of talk has been made with regards to the Right of Way from the Town Centre through to Church Street, and judging by experience in the past it is difficult to define a ROW. Can Town Council please specify the type of right of way required – is it a footpath, bridleway etc?

Duncan Strachan stated that information may be held at the Land Registry on the Crown Walkway.

The Town Clerk stated that he had already contacted Adam Maciejewski to check with the Land Registry for any information.

Mr Ken Page stated that he had lived in Biggleswade for 86 years, a very long time and since he was 5 yrs old. He could remember there was always a right of way from the Crown Hotel through to Church Street. In 1950 the owners did not object to the Urban District Council maintaining the walkway, there may have been an agreement.

Duncan Strachan asked if Ken Page would be willing to make a statutory declaration using the Town Councils solicitor. Ken Page he would be happy to do so

Mark Foster said would it not be better to include the shop front in the application, it would make more sense to make it appear to be part of the whole design and therefore more in keeping with the existing building.

Jane Croot said that nobody had mentioned the Victorian letterbox it is the only one remaining in Biggleswade and needs to be kept.

Sheila Grayston commented about the graffiti around the town and asked what the Town Council had done.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the police are aware, and trying to find the culprit(s). Also we have corresponded with Virgin Media, Central Bedfordshire Council, Open Reach and provided advice and materials to help owners of private property get the graffiti removed.

14. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution was moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item +issue(s) was discussed.

Agenda Items (Contracts, Rose Lane)

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolved** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.