

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2013 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr T Woodward (Chair), Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr I Bond, Cllr M North, Cllr Mrs M Russell,
Cllr G Wilson, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr B Rix, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr D Albone,
Cllr B Briars (arrived late), Cllr Mrs W Smith

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr R Skinner and Cllr Ms S Mulchrone

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item- there were none declared
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllrs Mrs J and D Lawrence declared an interest in item 10a as listed on the agenda.

The Mayor, Cllr T Woodward took this opportunity to welcome Cllr Bernard Rix to Biggleswade Town Council.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker.

5. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr M North said that the Drum Clock at Pizza Express looks scruffy and asked if it could be cleaned.

Cllr Mrs W Smith said we could ask the man who does the repairs if he would be able to clean the clock.

Cllr T Woodward confirmed that Town Council has a budget for maintenance of the Drum Clock.

Cllr D Lawrence said that there is meeting at CBC next week on behalf of Towns and Parishes, only the Town Clerk is registered to attend and asked if all Councillors had been invited.

Cllr T Woodward said yes, all Councillors had been invited.

Cllr D Albone said the London Road/Baulk junction repair that was due to be carried out on 5 April, has still not been started and asked that Town Council chase this.

Louise Wilcox replied that Town Council had sent an email to CBC on this matter but as yet no reply had been received.

6. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 March 2013 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that on Page 8 – item 8b – Bowls Club – should read ‘a review of the Bowls Club usage be carried out in 2013’

7. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 March 2013

There were no matters arising.

Cllr Bernard Briars arrived at this point (7.15pm)

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. **CB/13/00991/FULL – 9 Chapel Fields, Biggleswade**

Erection of no 2 one bedroom flats

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT**, as per the previous application, to this proposal by reason of its size, design and siting would result in an undesirable and unacceptable form of development such that it would have an overbearing impact on the amenities of the occupiers at no 10 Chapel Fields: as such the proposal is contrary to Policy DPS5 of the Adopted Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2005. Town Council raised concerns about difficulty of access and lack of parking at the site and also that the increase in traffic would impact on the 'Safer Route to School'

b. **CB/13/00360/FULL – Warehouse, Bonds Lane (rear of 11-13 Market Square), Biggleswade**

Conversion of warehouse to 2 no residential units

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as the shops that back onto this development would only be able to take deliveries from the front, on the Market Square, causing traffic flow problems.

c. **CB/13/01033/FULL – 4 Oak Crescent, Biggleswade**

Erect a PVCU Conservatory/Verandah to the rear

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.

9. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. **Consultation on Proposed Modifications to the 'Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic and Policies**

The Hearings into the 'Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies' for Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton, ended on Thursday 24 January 2013. As a result of issues raised during the Hearings, the 'Joint Authorities' (BBC, CBC and LBC) have prepared the Proposed Modifications for public consultation for a period of six weeks, beginning at **9am on Tuesday 2 April 2013 and finishing at 5pm on Wednesday 15 May 2013.**

A copy of the proposed modifications was attached for Members to consider.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that the nearest site to Biggleswade is land South of Broom, and couldn't see anything else to comment on.

Cllr D Albone said that on Page 44 – item 12 - raises concerns about 'tangible benefits'.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence said that after extraction there was a clause to state that the area had to be returned to how it was previously. What happens is, they leave us with a large hole that fills with water, they then say that they have given us a Lake.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay said that on Page 24 – Disposal of Hazardous Waste – is cause for concern.

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. **Work to Trees – Beaumont Park Nursing Home, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**

CBC has received an application to carry out work to trees, at the above address protected by a Preservation Order: T1 Plane Tree: Prune back to previous pruning points, reduce laterals on west side by up to 1.5m, reduce laterals on east side by 1.5m. T2 Sycamore raise the crown 3m reduce laterals all around. T3 Line tree: Re pollard. Lime tree in Group G2: Pollard. The trees are protected by Tree Preservation Order no MB/TPO/88/00004.

Work to trees within Biggleswade Conservation Area: C2, C3, C4 & C5 Oak trees: reduce laterals, on C5 by 1.5m

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

b. **Notice of appeal – CB/12/04402/FULL – 5 Apollo Gardens, Biggleswade – Conversion of part of garage (retrospective)**

CBC has notified Town Council that an appeal has been made against the decision to refuse planning permission for the above application.

Town Council objected to the application on 22 January 2013 for the following reason - 'as it adds to parking difficulties for residents'

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

11. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A member of the public asked that the Baulk/London Road junction be added onto the next agenda should the work not be undertaken by this time. The Town Council should then write to CBC and ask them to give Anglian Water 7 days notice, CBC as the highways authority could exert their powers to undertake the necessary works and re-charge Anglian Water.

12. **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 +issue(s) is discussed.

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.

Cllr B Briars said that now the exempt item from the Public Land and Open Spaces meeting of 12 March 2013 has been approved, it can go into the public domain.

