

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 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 B Briars, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence,  
Cllr G Wilson, Cllr I Bond, Cllr Mrs W Smith (arrived late)  
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk  
Louise Wilcox – Deputy Town Clerk  
Members of the public - 6

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Watkins, Cllr D Albone, Cllr Ms S Mulchrone, Cllr Mrs M Russell,  
Cllr R Skinner and Cllr M North.

The Mayor said that Town Council should send something to Cllr R Skinner to let him know that we are  
all thinking of him.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – there were no interests declared.
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllrs Mrs J and D Lawrence declared an interest in  
item 8a.

Cllr T Woodward declared an interest in item 8a.

Cllr I Bond declared an interest in item 8a.

Cllr Mrs W Smith declared an interest in item 9a

**3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A member of the public said they hoped that Town Council will approve the planning application for Ivel  
Valley School. Now that additional years schooling, up to 19 years old, is now available at the school  
they are running out of classroom.

**4. INVITED SPEAKER**

A member of the public said that she is fundraising for the Forster Suite, Lister Hospital and is hoping to  
raise sponsorship money by having her hair shaved off next week.

**5. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence asked if any Cllrs had attended the Overview & Scrutiny meeting at CBC. Nearly  
200 people had attended. There are 3 local sites listed, Kennel Farm is recommended for Show people  
Cllrs Mrs J and D Lawrence had attended as CBC councillors.

Dunton Road site is not sustainable as there are excessive distances to shops, schools etc.

There were 2 sites originally at Dunton Road, now there is one.

Cllr G Wilson asked how many pitches at Dunton Road and was told that initially it was for 5 pitches but  
now extended to 10 pitches.

*At this point Cllr Mrs W Smith arrived. She apologised for lateness and registered an interest in item 9a.*

Cllr D Lawrence asked that TCP are invited back to an Off Street Car Parking meeting to discuss parking  
in the town.

Cllr B Briars asked what is happening with the road at the bottom of the Baulk.

Cllr D Lawrence replied that it is an Anglian Water issue that is holding up the work.

Rob McGregor explained an email that he had received stating that Anglian Water would be carrying out the work.

Cllr B Briars was handed a response from CBC regarding the colours of the bricks used in Hitchin Street.

CBC admitted that there is a difference between the colour on the plans and the actual colour. They said that they don't stand out on site as they did in the catalogue.

## **6. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

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

Cllr B Briars said that on page 4 item a, changed from 'part of Bonds Lane/Hitchin street **could** be pedestrianised' to '**should** be pedestrianised'

## **7. MATTERS ARISING**

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

Cllr T Woodward said that Council should write to Sgt Kidd asking him to clarify the items he said he would look at and ask what actions had been taken.

Cllr Mrs W Smith said that Council should reiterate ongoing problems with parking in front of Dan Albone car park.

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **CB/13/00335/FULL – Biggleswade Health Centre, Saffron Road, Biggleswade**

Internal and external refurbishment and extension to existing Biggleswade Health Centre to provide modern updated facilities for the GP surgery and NHS Community Services to current NHS standards. Temporary hired modular accommodation to be sited on the existing health centre car park to provide temporary accommodation for existing GP & NHS staff and visitors for the duration of the construction works.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise a **HOLDING OBJECTION** to this application and ask that the arrangements for temporary parking be reconsidered.

- b. **CB/13/00663/FULL – 1 Devon Drive, Biggleswade**

Single storey extension to existing garage

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/13/00561/LB – 2 Market House, 30 Market Square, Biggleswade**

Listed Building: Erection of security shutters to existing shop front.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council are unable to make a decision until **further information** is received.

- d. **CB/13/00692/FULL – 2 Market House, 30 Market Square, Biggleswade**

Listed Building: Erection of security shutters to existing shop front.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council are unable to make a decision until **further information** is received.

- e. **CB/13/00348/FULL – Biggleswade Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Temporary hired modular accommodation to be sited adjacent to the existing hospital car park for relocated NHS Community Services staff and visitors.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no objection to this application.

f. **CB/13/00518/FULL – 18 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade**

Single storey side & rear extension, first floor rear extension and porch to front.

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.

g. **CB/13/00712/FULL – Ivel Valley School, Hitchmead Road, Biggleswade**

Extension and improvements to the entrance, administration and staff areas, internal reconfiguration and extension to provide three additional classrooms for 16-19 year old education.

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. **Good Friday service on Biggleswade Market Square**

Churches Together has requested access to the electrical hook up system on Biggleswade Market square from 9.30am on Friday 29 March, for the annual open air Good Friday service.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council agree to this request.

10. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Biggleswade Chamber of Trade**

The Biggleswade Chamber of Trade has sent two cheques to Town Council. £1,640 for a contribution to the Christmas Lights fund, and £2,000 towards the provision of flower containers for Hitchin Street.

A copy of their letter was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council write a letter of thanks to the Chamber of Trade.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence reminded Councillors that CBC owns the road (Hitchin Street) and that Peacocks own the area in front of their shop.

b. **Street naming and numbering – Former Fairholme, Fairfield Road, Biggleswade**

CBC has confirmed the postal addresses for the above development as:

**Nos 1 – 19 Vickers Close**

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

c. **Street naming and numbering – Land at The Baulk, Biggleswade**

CBC has confirmed the postal address for the building adjacent to Ivel Valley School as:

**Ivel Valley Hub, The Baulk, Biggleswade**

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

d. **Specsavers**

Specsavers will be using a room at the Old Courthouse to carry out NHS hearing tests, one day a week, starting on Friday 15 March, initially for 6 months.

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

e. **Temporary closure of Part of Footpath no 34**

CBC has notified Town Council of the temporary closure of footpath No 34 to enable construction works to take place near the footpath. The closure is expected to take place from 11 March 2013 to 31 March 2013. There is no alternative route for footpath uses while the closure is in operation.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted and that Town Council ask for an explanation of definition.

11. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A member of the public (MP 1) from the Biggleswade Scout Group addressed the meeting regarding fundraising.

The existing Scout Hut on London Road is falling apart; therefore they are looking for land for a new Scout Hut. They went onto explain the role of the Scouts in the Biggleswade Community.

A member of the public (MP 2) asked if there would be any available land within the Kings Reach development.

Cllr T Woodward said that there will be Community facilities within Saxon Gate, but there is no surplus land at the moment. There will be meetings shortly regarding Community facilities.

Cllr J Lawrence said that there should have been a Community building prior to Saxon Gate, but it was never built, as Town Council would not adopt the building.

MP 2 said that with one of the bus services ceasing, could Town Council push for alternatives and perhaps meet with the operators?

Cllr T Woodward said that he believed that this is out of Town Council remit; it's more of a CBC issue.

MP 2 said that Town Council should be raising the issue.

Cllr T Woodward said that he would ask CBC.

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.