

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2016
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present:

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay (Chair)
Cllr M Foster (late arrival 7.20pm)
Cllr D Albone
Cllr P Biernis
Cllr B Briars
Cllr Ms R Kerfoot
Cllr M North
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr Mrs M Russell

Mr R McGregor – Biggleswade Town Clerk
Mr M Thorn – Biggleswade Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs J Durn – Minute Taker, Biggleswade Town Council

6 Members of Public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr G Wilson, Cllr T Woodward, Cllr F Foster, Cllr I Bond, Cllr B Rix.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - None
(b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item:
- Cllr B Briars, Item 10a, BDCC.
- All Councillors – Parking issues

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A member of the public made a case for objection regarding the planning application CB/15/04821/FULL – 15 Torquay Close, Biggleswade for an extension to garage.

A strong and valid case was put forward against this application. Full reasons have been given both verbally and in writing, and they would appreciate them being taken into consideration when looking at this application.

5. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker

6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

The Chairman asked for an amendment to the attendee list of the previous meeting as Cllr D Strachan's name had been recorded twice in error. Cllr S Watkins is to be added to the list.

7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 December 2015 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade. Following the amendment on the attendee list the Minutes were approved.

8. MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 December 2015:

Page 2, Item 6: Cllr B Briars asked if there had been any feedback from CBC regarding his concerns on flyposting and banners around the town. The Town Clerk has not received a reply and has several issues still outstanding from CBC. There is however no reason why the banners cannot be removed from the Council car park at Dan Albone and this will be looked into.

Page 8, item 11e: Cllr D Albone asked if we have received feedback from CBC regarding our request for a light controlled zebra crossing. The Town Clerk has not received a reply but will be covering this point, together with other outstanding matters, at a meeting being held next week with the Director of Regeneration.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. **CB/15/04651/ADV - Unit G2 Biggleswade Retail Park, London Road**

Advertisement: Two fascias; one at high level, and one above the entrance doors. The fascias consist of white powdercoated aluminium with black halo illuminated built up letters.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.

b. **CB/ 15/04796/FULL - 3 Sorrell Way, Biggleswade**

Single storey rear extension & side extension to create garage/store

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning 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/ 15/04653/VOC - 144A London Road, Biggleswade**

Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission CB/10/03786/SE73 to extend the time period for retention of the temporary classroom unit.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.

d. **CB/15/04802/FULL – 157 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade**

Single storey side extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning 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.

Cllr B Briars asked for a caveat stating that there is no objection providing at least three off street parking spaces are provided.

e. **CB/15/04821/FULL – 15 Torquay Close, Biggleswade**

Extension to garage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application.

A request was made for this to be called in.

f. **CB/15/04862/FULL – 167 London Road, Biggleswade**

Single storey rear extension and dormer/Juliet balcony.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning 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/15/04768/FULL - 67 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade

Redevelopment of the site for 52 retirement apartments and houses for the elderly with associated communal facilities, parking and landscaping.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** in principle to this Planning Application, however, Cllr B Briars pointed out the need for a pedestrian crossing. Access was discussed. Concerns were expressed regarding insufficient parking. The Town Clerk will write a separate letter to Planning on this point.

h. CB/15/04832/FULL – 210 London Road, Biggleswade

Side and rear extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning 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.

i. CB/15/04847/FULL – Kennel Farm, Saxon Drive, Biggleswade

Two storey extension and refurbishment.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning 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.

10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Biggleswade & District Children's Centre:

Cllr B Briars gave Members a brief overview of the role of BDCC. They are requesting a representative from BTC to join the Advisory Board and attend meetings throughout the year. They are active in advising on all aspects of child health, safety and welfare. The Chairman asked for any interested Member to telephone the BDCC directly.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

St John Street Area Biggleswade – Temporary One Way System

Members were disappointed that at least three points taken to CBC had not been addressed, in particular:

Timing of traffic lights to ease traffic flow, two lanes of traffic from Rose Lane into Sun Street, and review and removal of temporary signage which is no longer applicable.

The Town Clerk was asked to write once again with a request for a response.

a. Stratton Street – Bridge Works Update:

Cllr Mrs M Russell informed Members of her considerable input in trying to obtain satisfactory answers to points we need addressed, and which should have been covered by the BJC.

These include many Emails asking for updated information, and numerous requests for senior members of CBC to attend meetings in order to address our concerns. All correspondence has been copied to the Director of Regeneration.

We appreciate that Cllr M Jones has been on leave, but no response has been received since his return, despite an email confirmation that this would happen.

There are rumours that CBC has plans in place and we feel that we should be consulted and listened to in order to contribute to the way forward.

It is important that any plans are shared. The current feeling of the Members is that this attitude is disgraceful and that Councillors feel that they are not being taken seriously.

Cllr D Albone said that at the Joint Committee it was made clear that there was a possibility of the bridge work obtaining further possessions which would have a positive impact on the timing of the work being undertaken.

The impact on traders and business in the town is unacceptable and we need this matter addressed urgently. It was requested that the Mayor write to the Chairman of CBC expressing concerns over the way we feel that Biggleswade Council is being treated by both CBC Officers and Councillors.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay and the Town Clerk will draft a letter to this effect.

Crown Inn:

Cllr D Albone had understood that the barriers were to be moved. Can CBC please progress this action as soon as possible.

Parking Consultation:

Still ongoing.

Century House Maintenance:

Cllr B Briars said that despite being told that maintenance was complete, work appeared to be still ongoing and he asked that we be kept updated.

The Town Clerk will obtain an update at the second meeting of the Biggleswade Joint Committee.

CBC proposal to extend 30mph speed limit on Potton Road:

Members have previously asked for a light controlled crossing at the Nursery Close area, and are disappointed to receive information on a zebra crossing instead. This is unacceptable, particularly as a Planning Officer was present at the original discussions.

The Town Clerk will write to CBC with our views.

12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

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

A Member of public made the point that CBC Councillors are never present at the BTC. What happened to Councillor's Surgeries? Residents of Biggleswade did not even receive a letter from CBC regarding either the changes to the town or the closing of the Recycling Centre for refurbishment.

A Member of the public said that as a business owner she feels unfairly treated, and that she will be contacting the Government Ombudsman. It was suggested that she have a meeting with the Town Clerk and the Councillors.

It was agreed that the Councillors notify the Town Clerk if they wish to attend this meeting.

13. 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.

Agenda Item (14a Minutes of Meetings)

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.