

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 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 Mrs M Russell, Cllr M North, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr B Briars,  
Cllr D Albone, Cllr B Rix, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence  
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk  
Michaela Beckwith – Administrative Assistant  
Members of public - 16

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr W Smith, Cllr T Woodward, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr. P Biernis

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr B Rix declared an interest in item 9c –planning application. Cllr J Lawrence and Cllr D Lawrence declared an interest in item 9e –planning application.

**3. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Town Mayor announcements.

**4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

**5. INVITED SPEAKER**

There was no invited speaker.

**6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr B Briars asked what was happening with the tree outside Morrisons as work has been going on for two years now. He also asked when the drains around the town will be cleared, especially the one outside The White Hart.

Cllr B Briars asked if any update was available on the proposed crossing Mead End London Road.

Cllr B Briars asked Cllr G Wilson to ask the police to look into South Walk as youths are congregating in the area.

Mr McGregor said that Highways issued an order last year for the tree outside Morrisons however their budget was used up so the work will be rescheduled. Highways are going to look into the blocked drains.

Cllr D Lawrence asked if the Town council could send a letter to the Dan Albone group outlining the Town Councils decision.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence informed members that various meetings were taking place at CBC regarding roads in Biggleswade and any outcomes from the meetings would come before the Town Council.

**7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

Members approved the minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting held 13 May 2014 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

**8. MATTERS ARISING**

On page 4 minutes of the Annual Statutory meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Cllr D Lawrence thanked Town Council for supporting the refusal of the planning application for Spring Close as it was very close decision at CBC.

## 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/14/01252/FULL – Rear of, 47 Potton Road, Biggleswade**  
Erection of two bungalows following removal of store buildings

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

- b. **CB/14/01827/FULL – 11 Coopers Close, Biggleswade**  
Single storey front 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.

- c. **CB/14/01732/FULL – Little Acre One, Langford Road, Biggleswade, SG18 9JU**  
Proposed new site access

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no objection to the access **BUT** request that Town Council write the Planners to raise Town Council concerns on the number of caravans on the site, as they exceed the numbers on the planning approval.

- d. **CB/14/01868/FULL – 10 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0LS**  
Single and two storey side and 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.

- e. **CB/14/01069/ADV – 74-74a Shortmead Street, Biggleswade**  
Advertisement: wall mounted non illuminated sign to side of building (retrospective)

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no objection, but want to ensure that this planning application does not set a precedent.

- f. **CB/14/01181/VOC – London Road Retail Park, Biggleswade**  
‘Variation of Condition 20 of planning application No CB/13/04399/VOC dated 20/03/2014 to allow up to 5% of the ground floor area of Unit B to be used for the sale of food and to allow a pharmacy to operate from part of Unit B. Wording of the condition to be amended to: “The development hereby approved for the units referred to as A,B,D,E,F,G,H,J,K,L,M,N,P, Homebase, 1 & 2 as shown on plan no 8659 P02 Revision M shall be used for A1 (retail) but shall not be used for the sale of food, as a post office, for the sale of tickets, as a travel agency, for hairdressing, for the direction of funerals, for the reception of goods to be washed, cleaned or repaired, as an internet café where the primary purpose of the premises is to provide facilities for enabling members of the public to access the internet or as a pharmacy, except for Unit B which can be in part used as a pharmacy and can sell food in up to 5% of its total ground floor area”.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT AS PREVIOUS** to this planning application.

## 10 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **Request from Cllr Peter Biernis re Committee paperwork supplied to Councillors**

Cllr Peter Biernis is concerned about the amount of paper that is used in Committee documentation supplied to Councillors the amount of time taken for staff to collate the paperwork, and is proposing the following:

1. Councillors receive a hard copy of the minutes and agendas
2. Councillors receive an electronic copy of the previous minutes and agenda
3. Councillor receive an electronic copy of any attachments for them to review

4. Hard copy on display of the attachments at meetings for members to review plus a few copies for members of the public.

A copy is attached to this agenda.

Cllr D Albone said that it would be a shame to consider the options without Cllr P Biernis present.

Cllr H Ramsay proposed to defer the item until Cllr P Biernis was present.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item, to be place on the next Town Council agenda.

**b. Street Naming and Numbering – Blocks 54 and 55, Land South Of, Potton Road, Biggleswade  
Postal address for 49 dwellings**

Correspondence has been received from CBC requesting that Members choose names for the next stage of the development. The theme previously agreed by Council is to be either Musicians or Sports people.

A copy of the correspondence and a site plan are attached to this agenda.

Cllr D Albone has suggested the following 20 English/British composers:

Cllr M Russell said Cllr D Albone had done a good job and supported the names of English/ British composers he had selected as suggestions for the next stage of development.

Cllr D Albone wished to make changes to the list of names, swapping Butterworth (George Butterworth) and Searle (Humphrey Searle) for Tallis (Thomas Tallis) and Byrd (William Byrd).

Cllr J Lawrence also wished to add Finzie (Gerald Finzie) to the list.

Therefore the amended list is as follows;

|   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Boyce</b> (William Boyce)                      | <b>Britten</b> (Benjamin Britten)                | <b>Wallis</b> (Thomas Tallis)      |
| <b>Coleridge-Taylor</b> (Samuel Coleridge-Taylor) |  | <b>Davies</b> (Maxwell Davies)     |
| <b>Delius</b> (Frederick Delius)                  | <b>Elgar</b> (Edward Elgar)                      | <b>Ellicott</b> (Rosalind Ellicot) |
| <b>Frankel</b> (Benjamin Frankel)                 | <b>Handel</b> (George Frideric Handel)           | <b>Holst</b> (Gustav Holst)        |
| <b>Parry</b> (Hubert Parry)                       | <b>Purcell</b> (Henry Purcell)                   | <b>Byrd</b> (William Byrd)         |
| <b>Smyth</b> (Ethel Smyth)                        | <b>Sullivan</b> (Arthur Sullivan)                | <b>Tate</b> (Phyllis Tate)         |
| <b>Tavener</b> (John Tavener)                     | <b>Vaughan Williams</b> (Ralph Vaughan Williams) |                                    |
| <b>Wiseman</b> (Beth Wiseman)                     | <b>Finzi</b> (Gerald Finzi)                      |                                    |

Cllr G Wilson asked if the Town Council could consider naming a street after Horace Gale for future road naming.

Cllr B Rix asked that signs and maps were consistent regarding hyphens as he had noticed the signs and maps showing Baden Powell Way were different; can we ensure that hyphens are placed where appropriate.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the amendments the list is accepted.

**c. Have your say on plans for allocating Older Persons Accommodation in Central Bedfordshire**

CBC are seeking Town Councils views on an important part of the new Allocations Policy that has been developed. The Housing Allocations Policy was adopted by Executive on the 27 May and will be implemented in the autumn.

An extensive consultation was carried out during late 2013/ early 2014 on the draft Policy, many comments and ideas on the Policy have been used to shape the direction of how the Council will allocate housing in a way that benefits local people in housing need.

A positive proposal put forward by a Parish Councillor regarding the allocation of Older Peoples Housing. This proposal asked that consideration be given in the Policy to older/retired people who live in rural areas, who may wish to downsize to a small property but remain in the local area. CBC believe that this proposal sits well within the objectives of the Allocations Policy and would like to know if Members share this view and support its inclusion in the final of the Policy.

The consultation runs between 2 June and 30 June 2014 and your personal views on the proposal and if possible the views of the Town Council if a meeting is held during the consultation period. To respond please visit the CBC website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations)

Hard copies of the consultation documents, the Allocations Policy and survey can be obtained by contacting:

Cllr M Russell said she was happy to support the proposal put forward by a Parish Councillor regarding the allocation of Older Peoples Housing, this was seconded by Cllr J Lawrence.

It was **RESOLVED** to fully support the inclusion into the allocations policy of; older / retired people who live in rural areas, who may wish to downsize to a smaller property but remain in the local area.

## 11. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### a. **Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Mead End, Dells Lane, A6001 London Road, A6001 High Street, A6001 Shortmead Street, Sun Street, St Johns Street, Potton Road, B1040 Drove Road & Elm Road, Biggleswade.**

Town Council confirmed this had been noted.

### b. **Biggleswade Town Cricket Club**

Town Council confirmed this had been noted.

### c. **Thank you letters – re Grants 2014**

Town Council confirmed this had been noted.

### d. **Thank you letter – re Mayors Chosen Charity 2013**

Town Council confirmed this had been noted.

### e. **Members' Customer Service Bulletins – 21/04/2014 – 18/05/2014 & 28/04/2014 – 25/05/2014**

Town Council confirmed this had been noted.

### f. **Proposed Temporary Road Closure – B1040 Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Town Council confirmed this had been noted.

### g. **Biggleswade to Langford Cycle Route**

Correspondence has been received from CBC to advise that the design work on the proposed Biggleswade to Langford cycle route, which forms part of the Local Area Transport plan works for 2014/15, is about to commence.

Cllr D Albone said that this should be welcomed.

Cllr J Lawrence requested that someone look into having a railway bridge with a ramp as the stairs are quite steep, this would aid mothers with pushchairs as well as cyclists who may wish to link into the proposed cycle route.

All voted in favour of writing and asking that consideration is given to a ramped bridge.

## 12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

MOP 1 – Asked what influence the Town Council had on CBC on road surfacing as Holme Court Avenue needs to be resurfaced.

MOP2 – Agreed with MOP1, and said the road was in a really bad state with deep holes in the road. They asked what percentage of the money from tax discs went to the government and then to the local council.

Cllr M Russell replied saying the government give Highways a grant but the amount does not reflect on the number of tax discs paid for. The grant money does not go to the Town Council.

MOP 2 – Said he would like to take a few people to see the state of the road, and said that it was dangerous for cyclists.

Cllr H Ramsay replied that the Town Clerk had received a schedule of upcoming works for this year and believed Holme Court Avenue was on the list.

Cllr D Lawrence said that every pot hole reported is given a reference number; follow up is normally good, five days, 48hrs, 24hrs depending on the urgency. The reference number can be checked on the web site.

Cllr I Bond said that it took two years for anything to be done about a pot hole he reported. The repairs were then undone within two weeks.

MOP 3 – Asked if a letter could be written to the police asking them to come to talk about the potential closure of the police station and the parking in Dells Lane as they haven't monitored it, as they had said they would.

Cllr H Ramsay informed MOP 3 that the Police Inspector would be present at the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.

MOP 4 – Asked if the topic of the closure of the police station could be put on an agenda for discussion as well as have the Chief Constable present.

Cllr G Wilson replied that the building is shared with Hertfordshire police although it is likely the front office will close.

MOP 4 – Was concerned that there won't be any police presence as Biggleswade is a major town and a central point for this area. They believed that the Town Council should be standing up for the town.

Cllr B Rix said that those involved have been asked to come so that they can answer questions. He also said that the relevant people from CBC and the police need to attend a meeting to sort out who is responsible for parking.

Cllr H Ramsay said that the Chief Constable was invited to attend a meeting but no reply has yet been received.

MOP 4 requested that this topic was put on an agenda and for the relevant people to be contacted beforehand to attend the meeting.

## 13. 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) is discussed.

**Agenda Items 14a, 14b,14c, 14d, 14e, 14h – Staff**

**14f, 14g - Contracts**

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.