

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2015 AT 10.00am  
PRIORY HOUSE, MONKS WALK, CHICKSANDS  
IN ROOM PH15**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr M Jones, Chairman	Deputy Leader CBC
	Cllr T Woodward	Cllr CBC
	Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	Cllr CBC
	Cllr D Lawrence	Cllr CBC
	Cllr G Wilson	Cllr BTC
	Mr M Thorn	BTC Deputy Town Clerk
	Mr P Fraser	CBC
	Cllr Mrs M Russell	Cllr BTC
	Cllr H Ramsay	Cllr BTC
	Mr M Thomas	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
	Mr P Mason	Highways, CBC
	Mr S Lakin	Highways, CBC
	Jan Durn	BTC Minute taker

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr W Smith, Mr G Lawrence.

**2. MEMBERS INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest

**3. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

This is a new item on the Agenda to enable members to submit written questions prior to the meeting in order that they can be considered for inclusion on the next Agenda.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members approved the minutes of the BJC held on 15 October 2014.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**Item 13. Eastern Relief Road.** Mr M Thomas asked if the road width could be looked at as he is concerned that it does not seem to be wide enough to take large Lorries comfortably. Mr Mason will investigate this.

**6. ELECTION OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE**

No nominations for the co-option of members to the Committee.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Repairs to Stratton Street Railway Bridge have now been set for December 2015.
- The Eastern Relief Road has been given a completion date of March 2015.
- Eastern Relief Road: The previously advised date of completion in March has now been changed by the Developers to May or June of this year.
- There has been a change to the Amy contract. There is a new Area Steward for the Biggleswade Area, Mr Nick Carofolo, and he will be invited to attend a future Biggleswade Town Council Meeting to give an update.
- Caroline Romans, Coordinator for the Biggleswade Green Wheel, has asked that we be informed of the formal Launch date – 1.30pm on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Jordans Mill.

**8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

No members of the public made statements.

## **9. TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE**

Steve Lakin passed round copies of the latest designs, specifically covering bus movements, for the members to look at. Ongoing communication is taking place with Network Rail regarding land take on three sections of land.

Members put forward several queries:

- Drop-off and turning space for at least 20/30 vehicles at the station.
- Queuing problems.
- Traffic blocking in Station Road, particularly with lorries.
- Vehicular access in and out of Baystrait House.
- Consultation with local residents and adjoining land owners.

The next steps are to:

- Secure the three separate land parcels.
- Formalise land negotiations and reach Heads of Terms with Network Rail.
- Go to Consultation.

Mr Lakin will take back all the comments made by the members at this meeting and will continue to update us. He also confirmed that due to protracted negotiations, it is unlikely that construction will take place in 2015.

The members confirmed that they are happy for Mr Lakin to proceed with negotiations with Network Rail.

## **10. COMMUTER PARKING**

Paul Mason provided the members with an update.

Mr Mason clarified that the area has been split into geographical areas referred to as zones A, B, C and D for ease of identification for priority.

It was agreed that Consultation will be for the whole area, but that the implementation may be phased in order of priority.

Cllr Mrs M Russell raised the point that Commuter parking continues to be a concern as we do not want to discourage people from visiting due to lack of available visitor parking space.

Following protracted negotiations, Biggleswade Town Council have now signed the lease on Rose Lane Car Park and are currently looking at ways to improve the situation on that site.

**11. SUN STREET/ST JOHN STREET GYRATORY**

Paul Mason provided the members with an update.

The Topographical study will be completed this week in order that the design can be finalised.

A representative from Amey, Neil O'Leary, will attend the next Biggleswade Town Council meeting in February in order to make a presentation.

It is hoped that Consultation can then go ahead in February.

Construction is part of the Capital Programme and therefore this work will be put forward for consideration in the next financial year.

The members asked that the provision of smaller buses and the provision of residential parking outside homes could be taken into consideration. Mr Mason will take these points back to Amey.

Mr M Thomas asked if the commercial aspect of the town could be addressed. The Chair asked for this to be put in writing for inclusion on the next Agenda under Members Questions.

**12. LONDON ROAD CROSSINGS**

Mr Steve Lakin provided the members with an update.

The proposal is to design the crossing and then go to Consultation. However this will not now take place in the next financial year ((2015), but the following year (2016), with implementation in 2016.

The members were extremely unhappy with this timing and the Chairman will meet with Mr Mason to explore ways of bringing this forward.

In order to help expedite this it was agreed to look at the possibility of joint funding. Cllr Mrs H Ramsay will take this to the Town Council to see if a contribution can be made.

**13. EXEMPT ITEMS**

There were no exempt items.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015