

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE HELD MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 4
JULY 2012 AT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL OFFICES, PRIORY HOUSE, MONKS WALK, CHICKSANDS,
SHEFFORD**

Present:	Cllr M Jones	Deputy Leader CBC
	Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	Cllr CBC
	Cllr D Lawrence	Cllr CBC
	Cllr Patricia E Turner	Cllr CBC (substitute for Cllr Vickers)
	Cllr G Wilson	Cllr BTC
	Cllr T Woodward	Cllr BTC
	Cllr Mrs H Ramsay	Cllr BTC
	Cllr Mrs W Smith	Cllr BTC
	Cllr Mrs M Russell	Cllr BTC
	Mr M Thomas	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
	Mr G Lawrence	Town Plan Steering Group
	Mr R McGregor	Biggleswade Town Clerk
	Mr S Caldbeck	Major Projects Officer CBC
	Mrs S Murphy	Strategic Asset Manager CBC
	Mr G Greaves	Jones Lang LaSalle

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairman.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Maurice Jones as Chairman for the municipal year 2012/13.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Nominations were requested for the office of Vice Chair.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Mrs Hazel Ramsay Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2012/13.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Nominations were requested for the co-option of members to the Committee.

RESOLVED to appoint Mr M Thomas BCOT and Mr Gerry Lawrence TPSG as co-opted members for the municipal year 2012/13.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Vickers

5. MEMBERS INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any interests and their nature in relation to any Personal interests on the agenda and any Personal and Prejudicial interests in any agenda item.

- a) Mr M Thomas registered an interest as his family hold three properties in Biggleswade, although they are not central to the discussion on any agenda item.
- b) Cllr P Turner declared a personal interest in item 10 Hitchin Street.
- c) There were no Personal and Prejudicial Interests declared.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman formally welcomed the members of the Committee and hoped the Committee would help move things along that needed to be done in Biggleswade.

7. COMMITTEE STRATEGY

Cllr D Lawrence expressed concern over the general issue of Planning conditions, Section 106 agreements and enforcing these conditions.

The Chairman stated that there are other Committees that cover this issue, but he is happy to monitor the situation.

It was agreed that the Strategy for the Committee would be;

- Biggleswade Masterplan
- Health
- Town Centre Development
- South Town Development
- Monitoring Planning conditions & 106 Agreements

Cllr P Turner MBE asked that Officers be more attentive of Planning & Section 106 agreements and feedback any changes to the Ward Members.

8. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Chairman asked if the Members would like to invite anyone else to attend the Joint Committee as a co-opted member.

RESOLVED that the Committee would like to invite the Chairman of the Industrial Park Group, Paul Jaggard to be a co-opted member.

Mr R McGregor to write a letter of invitation.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Chairman had originally expected that the meetings would be held quarterly. However, the proposed Green Wheel is near completion in September, together with a number of other items we want to get underway, influencing the timing of the next meeting.

AGREED to hold the next meeting of the BJC on Wednesday 26 September at 9.30am, in meeting room 3 at Priory House Chicksands.

10. HITCHIN STREET IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

SC referred the Meeting to the Design Notes for Hitchin Street, and gave an overview of the scheme background. It is anticipated that construction will commence in September 2012 with delivery by November 2012.

Mr Thomas has been asked by a Trader who is just outside of the area, if the scheme can be extended.

Cllr T Woodward felt we should welcome the scheme and go ahead. Sam said that due to costing and design implications this would not be possible at the moment. However, he agreed to speak to the Trader and explain the advantages of the on-going maintenance programme.

Cllr P Turner MBE asked for an assurance that it would be a first class Maintenance Scheme in order to give comfort to those traders just outside the area.

SC reassured members that the maintenance would be of a high standard on the remainder of the trading properties in Hitchin Street and any materials used would be consistent with what was going on in the remainder of Hitchin Street.

SC reported that the maintenance budget is in the process of being confirmed, and he will report on this at the next meeting.

AGREED subject to the maintenance budget being found satisfactory at the next meeting, to support the planned maintenance programme.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the consideration of the items are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.