

MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2016
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone (Chair)
Cllr P Biernis
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr J Medlock
Cllr M North
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr S Watkins

Mr R McGregor - Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mrs J Durn – Meetings Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council

Members of Public – 5

B22/1101 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr B Rix, Cllr Mrs M Russell, Cllr T Woodward

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

Cllr Ms R Kerfoot

B22/1102 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- B1102.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item - None.
- B1102.2 b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item – None.

B22/1103 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Cllr T Woodward, who is in hospital at the moment.
- b. Thank you to everyone involved in the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 13 November.
- c. An informal meeting of the BJC (Biggleswade Joint Committee) will take place at Central Bedfordshire Council Offices, Priory House, Chicksands on 8 December at 3.00 pm. All welcome to attend.

B22/1104 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

- B1104.1 a. Mr Mills: Can you please tell us the up-to-date position on the Community Centre which the people of Biggleswade are still not able to use, despite being promised use of this facility in the autumn of this year, and which we understand is in an unacceptable condition due to builders items and general rubbish being stored in the building by the builders. Please also clarify the plans for a Caretaker – we see that there is only provision for £4000 for a part time person - surely a full-time Caretaker is required.

The Council are keen to have the Community Centre up and running as soon as possible. The Town Clerk is monitoring the situation, and discussions are ongoing. BTC are still not able to take possession of the building and this item will be discussed in more detail later on the Agenda. (Item 12b).

B22/1105 5. INVITED SPEAKERS

There were no invited Speakers.

B22/1106 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

- B1106.1 a. Cllr F Foster: As a point of interest – I would just like to draw Members attention to the advertising literature from Thomas Morris Estate Agents which features a large advertisement for the Biggleswade Town Christmas Fair.

B22/1107 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- B1107.1 a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 8 November 2016.

B22/1108 8. MATTERS ARISING

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25 October 2016.

- B1108.1 a. Page 2, Item A1106.1: Cllr Mrs H Ramsay asked if there had been an update on the Pay & Display Parking Meter at the Kings Reach Estate.

This item will be covered on the Agenda, Item 12a.

- b. Page 5, item A1110.4, Consultation of Payphone Removal: The Council has recently received details of a number of other payphone boxes put forward for removal, and Cllr D Strachan would like to know why these were not included in the original documentation for discussion on the last Agenda.

The Town Clerk asked Members to disregard recent email communications from CBC regarding this subject as the information is inaccurate. We await further details and will then circulate the correct information.

B22/1109 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- B1109.1 a. **CB/16/04993/FULL – 32 Oak Crescent, Biggleswade**
Single storey front extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, provided that 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 dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- B1109.2 b. **CB/16/04065/FULL – 29 The Rowlands, Biggleswade**
Removal of front window and replacement of bow window.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, provided that 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 dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- B1109.3 c. **CB/16/04931/FULL – 186 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade**
Remove low front wall (approximately height 16 inches) between drive and the road and install drop kerb to allow easier access onto and off drive and garage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to the Application, provided that neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

- B1109.4 d. **CB/16/05084/FULL – 9 Playfield Close, Biggleswade**
Single storey side extension

An earlier Planning Application was considered for the above property on 27 September 2016.

CB/1603993/FULL – 9 Playfield Close, Biggleswade
Two storey side extension.

*The Town Council raised **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, provided the neighbours are consulted, and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.*

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, provided that 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 dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- B1109.6 e. **CB/16/05228/FULL – 16 Chaucer Drive, Biggleswade**
Single storey rear/side extension integrated with garage conversion to habitable use.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, subject to suitable parking arrangements, and provided that 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 dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.
- B1109.7 f. **CB/16/05242/FULL – 31 Wilsheres Road, Biggleswade**
First floor side/rear extension upon existing ground floor extension, with additional rear covered area under new first floor at rear.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, provided that 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 dwellings are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.
- B1109.8 g. **CB/16/05242/FULL – Land to the West of Park Corner Farm, Dunton Lane, Biggleswade.**
Erection of an agricultural building for the storage and grading of potatoes and storage of associate farming machinery.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application.
- B22/1110 10. ACCOUNTS**
- B1110.1 a. **Financial Administration**
- Accounts will be available at the next Council Meeting.
- B22/1111 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
- B1111.1 a. **Biggleswade and District Pensioners Association**
- Members were sad to hear that the BDPA has taken the decision to cease this long-standing association, which has provided a valuable service over the past 22 years. We do however understand the reasons for this, and the Mayor is pleased to accept a refund of the £300 Council Grant.
- It was **RESOLVED** that this money (£300) will go to the Mayor's Charity Fund for Keech Hospice, as requested by BDPA.
- B1111.2 b. **Parish Council Meeting**
- Members **NOTED** the invitation to attend a meeting with Alistair Burt MP on Saturday 4 February 2017, 10-00am-12.00noon.

B1111.3 c. **Speed Lights – Biggleswade – Langford Road**

Biggleswade Town Council have received a request for the placement of speed measures approaching Biggleswade from Langford, as part of this falls within the Biggleswade Parish.

It was **RESOLVED** that Biggleswade Town Council accept this initiative, and that “speed measures” be placed on the Town Centre Management Committee Meeting Agenda in order to consider placing similar measures both in Biggleswade itself, and on the relief road.

B22/1112 12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

B1112.1 a. **Land East of Biggleswade**

Following a response from CBC to Members questions at the last meeting, regarding clarification of the installation of a Pay and Display parking machine on land east of Biggleswade, of which they were not aware, the Town Clerk has investigated further.

The CBC response states that this machine was part of the approved Parking Strategy for the local centre. However, when contacted by the Town Clerk, the Community Management Team at CBC were unaware of this installation. Further investigation showed that the Planning Department at CBC were aware of the machine, but a subsequent meeting between the Town Clerk and the Parking Team at CBC, has shown that the Parking team also have no knowledge of the installation of this machine.

Members felt the lack of communication was unsatisfactory and asked if this matter could be referred to the Biggleswade Joint Management Committee Agenda.

B1112.2 b. **Orchard Community Building – update**

A Report from the Town Clerk is attached to the Agenda.

Members expressed extreme concern that not only is this facility being used by the builders as a dumping ground, but they are abusing a public facility which is a totally unacceptable situation. Given that approval was granted in April, we are now 12 months down the line and we still cannot get access to the building.

It was agreed that BTC need this public facility under our control urgently. Members asked if CBC Executive were aware of the situation

The Town Clerk progresses this matter daily and reported that the Developers are causing protracted delays due to contractual and financial issues. Commuted sums are yet to be agreed by both parties, following which we have been assured that the building will be cleared and restored to the original condition before transfer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman write to CBC with the above points of concern, and that Councillor’s will receive a copy of this correspondence.

B1112.3 c. **Planning Outcomes**

Planning Outcomes were **NOTED**.

B1112.4 d. **Crime Statistics for Biggleswade – October 2016**

Members felt disappointed that due to new reporting procedures and police administrative cutbacks, we do not have historical numbers in order to make comparisons year on year. The current statistics are provided by the Town Clerk from information accessed on the police website. The Statistics were **NOTED**.

B22/1113 13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

None.

B22/1114 14. 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 is discussed.

(Recommendations – Personnel 15th November 2016)

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.