



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2019
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone
Cllr I Bond
Cllr K Brown
Cllr G Fage
Cllr L Fage
Cllr F Foster (Vice Chairman)
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M Knight
Cllr M North
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr M Russell (Chairman)
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr R Pullinger

Mr P Truppin – Locum Town Clerk
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
Members of Public – 2

A13/0801 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Woodhead

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

A13/0802 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- A13/0802.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - Cllr I Bond, Item 11b.
A13/0802.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none

A13/0803 3. TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Cllr F Foster has attended the following events on behalf of Cllr Russell:

On Wednesday 7 August: I cut the ribbon at the opening of the new McDonalds Restaurant. I wished the franchisee and the staff well and welcomed the opening of the branch with the convenience of the 24-hour opening policy which will be of great benefit to shift workers and midnight feasters alike.

On Friday 9 August: I deputised for Cllr Russell at the 20th Birthday Celebrations of the Respite at Home Volunteers at Jordan's Mill. This can be anything from chatting to the patient while the main carer goes to get her hair done to taking the patient out to visit a garden centre. A great bunch of people who provide a wonderful service.

The Mayor reiterated the importance of supporting this important cause which is such a valuable service.

A13/0804 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no comments from the public.

A13/0805 5. INVITED SPEAKER

No invited speaker

A13/0806 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

A13/0806.1 a. Cllr K Brown: Streetlights in Fairfield Road have been a long-standing problem. We now have lights, but they are still not working.

Cllr Bond has the latest update: three lights at the Sun Street site are now in operation. The remainder are new lights and will be in operation soon. Cllr Bond is monitoring this situation and will keep us informed.

Cllr K Brown: There are problems of parking outside the Cricket Club, reducing the road to one lane and making it exceptionally dangerous for the traffic. This has been noted by several members. It was agreed that it needs to be addressed and will be taken forward with CBC.

Cllr K Brown: BUFC have put up a gate which they are continually locking. This is on Council land and the Council have been made aware of this. Do we have an update?

Cllr Bond reported that this matter is being addressed by the BTC Works Manager.

Cllr M Knight: The BTC Parking Orders have been in place for one year now. Do we have the promised report from CBC?

Cllr M Russell replied that she is currently chasing this with both CBC Councillors and relevant Cabinet members and understands that it is currently being addressed. Cllr Russell will keep us informed.

Cllr L Fage: Regarding McDonalds Restaurant – what is their policy with regard to litter?

Cllr Ramsay attended a residents meeting with representatives from McDonalds where this topic was covered and reported that they were assured by McDonalds that an early morning “clear” would take place. However, in practice this was hampered by the fact that litter pickers are not allowed on public private property due to the trespass laws. McDonalds are currently addressing this with proposals to provide more litter bins in their area. They are keen to resolve this issue and will be closely monitoring the situation. We will be kept informed of the outcome.

A13/0807 7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

A13/0807.1 a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 23 July 2019.

A13/0808 8. **MATTERS ARISING**

From the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 23 July 2019.

a. There were no Matters Arising

A13/0809 9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A13/0809.1 **CB/19/01949/FULL – Brookside Bungalow, Langford Road, Biggleswade SG18 9RA**
Loft Conversion.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Application providing 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 to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A13/0809.2 **CB/19/02135/FULL – 1 Sandpiper Close, Biggleswade SG18 8DT**
Erection of first floor side extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application providing 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 to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A13/0810 10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

For Members to receive and adopt the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30th June 2019.
- ii Summary of Income & Expenditure 30th June 2019.
- iii Income and Expenditure by budget heading 20th June 2019.
- iv Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30th June 2019.

Cllr Ramsay proposed that the accounts be adopted.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Accounts were adopted as presented.

A13/0811 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A13/0811.1 a. Lighting Provision on part of unlit Footpath 44 – Southern Railway Crossing

The exact costs are not clear, and Members are unsure as to why the Town Council is being asked for a contribution. It was felt that as this has already taken two years, a timeline for the project should now be provided.

It was **RESOLVED** that BTC:

- Ask CBC that, in view of the change of arrangements for street lighting, why BTC is being asked to contribute.
- Defer a decision until the exact costs are available and CBC confirms that it has budget provision for the work.
- Request a timeline for the project.
- The Locum Town Clerk has written to CBC raising concern over the issue

A13/0811.2 b. Central Bedfordshire Council and Network Rail – Proposed Closure Lindsell’s Level Crossing, Biggleswade Bridleway No. 11

Cllr Bond left the meeting during this discussion of this item.

Points made were:

- BTC does not need access for Town Council Business
- The map that been provided does not show the final position
- The Council would be upset at the closure of one particular footpath but cannot make any final decision until the full up to date information is available.
- Confirmation has been requested by 31 August. There is not sufficient time to consider this request as BTC needs to see the final information prior to making a decision.

It was **RESOLVED** that BTC will respond on the point regarding access to confirm that this is not required for Town Council Business.

It was **RESOLVED** that BTC request receipt of the correct information giving the final position before making an informed decision and to further request an extension of the time given to respond, as the 31st August is too short, given that the latest proposals have not been made available. There are also concerns over the Green Wheel, and assurances that the future of the Green Wheel will not be affected are needed.

Cllr Bond re-joined the meeting

A13/0811.3 c. Public Notice – Central Bedfordshire Council Proposes to Introduce an Experimental One-Way and Contra-Flow Cycle System in the Baulk, Biggleswade

Concerns were expressed over this scheme. Members reported that the signage has already been put in place but is totally hidden by vegetation. It was felt that for additional safety it would be beneficial for a 20mph zone to be introduced in the Baulk for cars. An extension of the 20mph zone in other areas would also be beneficial Other issues

such as lack of parking enforcement on the double yellow lines at the junction are adding to the hazards in that area.

A serious concern was that parked cars were causing a chicane effect and that was particularly dangerous for cyclists. A separate cycle lane was necessary.

It was suggested that Head Teachers of the surrounding schools be given advance warnings of the changes as many pupil's cycle on that route.

It was noted that this system will commence on 16th August. Members fear that Highways have not full considered the implications of this scheme and will be closely monitoring the situation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write an urgent letter to CBC voicing the concerns expressed by Members. Also to invite the CBC Highways Officer to a Council Meeting to give an explanation of the design, and the reasoning behind this Experimental system. This item to be brought to the next Biggleswade Joint Committee Meeting Agenda if necessary.

Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils (BATPC) AGM

A13/0811.4 d.

It was confirmed that Cllr Knight, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Woodhead will represent Biggleswade Town Council at the AGM on 17th October 2019, 7.30pm, Cople Village Hall.

Council has been asked to put forward nominations for election to the County Committee. Each Member to serve a term of four years. Meetings are held quarterly in Biggleswade.

Members nominated Cllr M Russell and Cllr M North.

Both nominations were agreed unanimously and accepted by the nominated Councillors.

A12/0812 12.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A12/0812.1 a.

Drove Road Workshop Update

Members received a report from Bob Catchpole, BTC Works Manager, giving an update on the workshop project.

This information was **NOTED** and will be discussed further under Item c. on the Exempt Agenda.

A13/0813 13.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A13/0813.1 a.

Cllr Whitaker: Regarding McDonalds Restaurant: Would like to reiterate earlier statements and confirm that McDonalds are committed to litter-picking and have said that they would be happy to extend their litter-picking beyond 100 metres. They have been very busy during the last two weeks since opening, and, once they have settled down to a more regular pattern (in 2/3 weeks' time), they will be meeting with representatives of CBC and BTC to discuss the situation.

A14/0814

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.

- a. **Administrative Role for advertising**
- b. **Payroll procedures**
- c. **Proposed Workshop and Store**
- d. **Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting 01082019**

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.