

MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone (Chair)
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M North
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay
Cllr Mrs M Russell
Cllr D Strachan

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

Members of Public – 2

B11/0101 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Biernis

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr J Medlock

B11/0102 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

B0102.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item - None

B0102.2 b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item - None

B11/0103 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

B0103.1 a. A Meeting with Alistair Burt will be held on 4 February between 10 and 12.00am, at Sandy Bowls Club, Bedford Road, Sandy. All welcome to attend.

B11/0104 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no questions from Members of the Public

B11/0105 5. INVITED SPEAKERS

There was no invited Speaker.

B11/0106 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

B0106.1 a. Cllr F Foster: There are still some banners on display, such as the Boots banner, can the Town Clerk please ask for this to be removed.

B0106.2 There are also Balfour Beattie signs on the roundabout, can the Town Clerk request that these be removed by CBC Highways.

- B0106.3 **b.** Cllr M Foster: Parking issues and the implementation of the one-way system, which we understood to be a 6 month trial period from June 2016, continue to be a problem.

Cllr Mrs M Russell will bring these items forward at the Biggleswade Joint Committee meeting being held on 25 January.

- B0106.4 **c.** Cllr Mrs M Russell: I understand that the Baystrait House office building has been given planning permission for conversion into 11 flats. Biggleswade Town Council has not been informed. Can the Town Clerk please find out the process involved in this decision, and also the planning reference so that we can be fully apprised of the details.

B11/0107 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- B0107.1 **a.** Members received and approved the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 11 January 2017.

- B0107.2 **b.** Member received and approved the **RECOMMENDATIONS** and **NOTED** the **RESOLUTIONS** of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 17 January 2017 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

- B0107.3 **c.** From the **RECOMMENDATIONS** of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 17 January 2017, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approve the budget for 2017/2018 and request a precept figure from Central Bedfordshire Council of £848,241.00

B11/0108 8. MATTERS ARISING

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11 January 2017.

- B1008.1 **a.** From page 5, item 11, A1011.01 a: Internship within the Dual course of Study "Public Management". Due to the current workload at BTC, the Town Clerk has replied with the suggestion that this opportunity may be more beneficial at a larger Council. He has received a letter of thanks, and they will be contacting CBC with this request

B11/0109 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- B0109.1 **a.** **CB/17/00001/FULL – 76 Fairfield Road, Biggleswade**
Creation of first floor with front and rear dormers to new roof space, front porch and single storey rear extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning 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.

- B0109.2 b. **CB/16/05492/FULL – 7 St Johns Street, Biggleswade**
Erection of front porch retrospective application.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application.
- B0109.3 c. **CB/16/05895/RM – Phases 5 and 6 Land East of Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade**
Reserved matters following Outline Application CB/15/03078/OUT (B1,B2 and B8 use) approval is sought for the appearance; landscaping; layout, and scale of Plot 5b.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application.
- B0109.4 d. **CB/16/05906/RM – Parcels 15, 16and 18 at Land South of Potton Road, Biggleswade.**
Reserved matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 134 dwellings pursuant to Outline Application MB/05001425/OUT dated 02/04/2015.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application, subject to the Planning Authority ensuring that adequate footpaths are in place, and that road widths are suitable for two-way movement of traffic. The Town Council are not in favour of shared space.
- B0109.5 e. **CB/17/00025/FULL – 14 Lincoln Crescent, Biggleswade**
Single storey rear extension and garage conversion,
- 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.
- B0109.6 f. **CB/17/00162/RM – Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade**
Reserved Matters pursuant to Application Re. CB/16/04542/VOC dated 28/11/16 in respect of Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the development of a single B8 warehouse unit with ancillary offices, service yard and car parking.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this Application.
- B11/0110 10. ACCOUNTS**
- B0110.1 a. **Financial Administration**
- i) Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 December 2016.
 ii) Summary of Income and Expenditure
 iii) Income and Expenditure by budget heading
 iv) Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 December 2016.
- Cllr M North (Chairman F&GP) recommended that the accounts are approved and adopted by Council.
- It was **RESOLVED** that Council adopt the above Accounts

B11/0111 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- B0111.1 a. **Business Plan Monitoring Report – January 2017**
Members reviewed the Business Plan Monitoring document.

The Town Clerk has been working on this project since November 2016. It continues to be work in progress and will be presented to the Working Group prior to final presentation to Council.

B0111.2	b.	<u>Safe Places.</u>
		Members felt that this was an excellent scheme and would like BTC to take a lead on this, and to encourage others to do the same.
		Concerns were raised that this does raise the important issue of staff safety at both the Orchards and The Old Court House, and measures would have to be put in place to address this issue before registering on the local Safe Places Organisation CIC website.
		The Town Clerk will take this forward.
B11/0112	12.	<u>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</u>
B0112.1	a.	<u>Planning Application Outcomes</u> This information was <u>NOTED.</u>
B0112.2	b.	<u>Crime Statistics December 2016</u> The information made available by the police relates to the previous month of November, therefore making comparisons difficult. This information was <u>NOTED.</u>
B11/0113	13.	<u>PUBLIC OPEN SESSION</u>
B0113.1	a.	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, in respect of any other business of the Town Council. Mr F Bacon: I have been in touch with CBC Highways on numerous occasions regarding the number of unlit signs. The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to take this information back to Highways. Mr Bacon is also unhappy as he feels that CBC Councillors are not passing on public concerns to CBC, as they do not appear to have been acted on, particularly with the issues of Palace Street. Cllr T Woodward assured Mr Bacon that CBC Councillors do their best to apply pressure. Cllr Mrs M Russell informed Mr Bacon that Cllr Woodward had “Called-

B0113.2	b.	<p>in" the application for Palace Street, however, despite a lot of support, the vote went against us.</p> <p>Mr Matthew Masson: Asked what influence the does BTC have over CBC with regard to the planning policy taking place in Biggleswade? He has recently attending a briefing at Saxon Drive to be told that there is a further 90 houses being built. When is this going to stop? We need to pause for breath! The Doctors are full; School classes are full – my daughter is in a class of 32 pupils!; Saxon Drive has 230 houses, making the morning and rush hour commute totally unacceptable, for example, my journey to Luton takes one and a half hours!</p> <p>Councillors agreed with these comments, and confirmed that they do their best to bring both the dissatisfaction of the residents, as well as BTC, to the attention of CBC.</p>
B11/0114	14.	<u>EXEMPT ITEMS</u>
		The following resolution will be moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.
		<i>Minutes- Update on staff matters)</i>
		Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council resolve to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

B01/0114	14.	<u>EXEMPT ITEMS</u>
		Exempt Minutes were taken by the Chair.

Meeting closed 8.47 pm