



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

PRESENT:

- Cllr D Albone
- Cllr K Brown
- Cllr F Foster (Vice Chairman)
- Cllr M Foster
- Cllr M North
- Cllr R Pullinger
- Cllr M Russell (Chairman)
- Cllr D Strachan
- Cllr C Thomas
- Cllr J Woodhead
- Cllr H Ramsay

- Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk
- Mr P Truppin – Locum Clerk
- Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
- Members of Public – 13, including Simon Newton, Town Centre Operations Manager, BTC

B24/0901 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I Bond, Cllr G Fage, Cllr L Fage, Cllr M Knight

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

B24/0902 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- B24/0902.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - None
- B24/0902.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item –
Cllr M North, Cllr C Thomas & Cllr R Pullinger - Item 8e **Planning
Application: CB/19/02629FULL Conservative Club**

B24/0903 3. TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Cllr Russell attended the following events:

15 September – Pottton Civic Service

The Mayor attended the service held at St Mary’s Church, Pottton, followed by a Reception at St Mary’s Hall.

18 September – Neighbourhood Plan Workshop

The Workshop was held for residents who had indicated in our initial engagement questionnaire that they would like to be more involved with the Neighbourhood Plan. Members of the teams working on both the Langford and Sutton Neighbourhood Plans were also invited, although the Sutton representative could not attend at the last minute.

The Mayor led the Workshop through a presentation outlining what has been done so far., what the next steps are and what the final statutory process is. There was much lively discussion, particularly about health, social care for the elderly and future transport.

22 September – The Justice Service for the County of Bedfordshire

The Mayor attended the service held at St Paul's Church, Bedford which was hosted by the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

Those present included Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, neighbouring High Sheriffs, The Chief Constable, The Chief Fire Officer, High Court Judges of the South Eastern Circuit, Circuit Judges of the Crown, Family and County Courts, District Judges of the County and Magistrates' Courts and the Chairman of the Bedfordshire Magistrates' Court.

Also present were the Mayor of Bedford, The Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Town Mayors, together with the leaders of many faiths in Bedfordshire.

The Bishop of Bedford preached, and the theme of the service was based on a Meditation by John Donne with the familiar words:

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the mainAny Man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls: it tolls for thee".

B24/0904

4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Members of the public made the following comments:

Philip Deveraux: Would like to put forward objections of members of the public also present at the meeting in connection with the proposed bridleway through Sycamore Close

Mark Winwood of Sycamore Close wished to object to the proposed Bridleway through Sycamore Close in the plans for the closure of Lindell's Level Crossing, Biggleswade Bridleway No 11. (This item was discussed at the 27th August 2019 Council Meeting)

Mr Winwood gave a full account of the reasons behind this objection by the residents of the cul-de-sac, which has previously been considered a safe environment for families living there. There are now issues concerning the safety of the area, the loss of parking, concerns over the green wheel and endangered species, which goes against the principle

of having the green wheel in the first place. Residents would like these concerns to be taken seriously by the Council.

Mrs A King: Asked if members of the Council had actually looked at the proposed area of Sycamore Close as there are people, children and animals living in the Close that need to be considered, it is not just a road on a map.

Christine Garner: What is the connection with bridge and the bridleway? Is there any information on this?

B24/0905 **5. INVITED SPEAKER**

No Invited Speaker

B24/0906 **6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Strachan: Given the workload of the police, has Council put arrangements in place for Remembrance Day and the Christmas Lights Switch on.

The Clerk will email Councillors with the current position.

B24/0907 **7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

B24/0907.1 **a.** Members received the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 September 2019 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Requested amendment to Item 12a: Regarding Sycamore Close.
Cllr F Foster: Has a strong objection to the bridleway being routed through Sycamore Close. We are trying to get the original resolution rescinded. This is discussed further under agenda item B24/0910.3 c:

Following this amendment the Minutes will be re-presented for signature.

B24/0908 **8. MATTERS ARISING**

From the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2019.

B24/0908.1 **a.** Have the Town Council received the presentation from Mr Prosser of NOAH.
The Town Clerk to chase this up.

B24/0908.2 **b.** Sycamore Close:
This is covered under Agenda item 10c of the current Agenda.

B24/0908.3 **c.** Cllr D Albone: When Planning Applications have previously been discussed and come forward again at a later date with changes, can the previous information be added to the new Application for information and reference to the previous decision.

- B24/0909** **9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
- B24/0909.1 **a. CB/19/02389/LB – White Hart Public House, 23-24 Market Square, Biggleswade, SG18 8AS**
Listed Building: Installation of replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signs to the exterior of the building.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.
- 24/0909.2 **b. CB/19/02482/FULL – Retail Unit 3, Purcell Place, Sullivan Court, Biggleswade SG18 8SX**
Change of use of commercial unit from A3 to A5.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.
- B24/0909.3 **c. CB/19/02583/FULL – 8 Dells Lane, Biggleswade SG18 8LP**
Proposed 2-storey side and rear extension, Front Porch & Garage.
- 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.
- B24/0909.4 **d. CB/19/02579/FULL – Garage Site adjacent to 165 Stratton Way, Biggleswade.**
Demolition of 20 garages and erection of 1 dwelling with associated parking.
- 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.
- B24/0909.5 **e. CB/19/02629/FULL – Conservative Club, St Andrews Street, Biggleswade, SG18 8BA**
Conservation Area: Relocation of play equipment (retrospective) and construction of new masonry wall (following demolition of existing)
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.
- B24/0909.6 **f. CB/19/02516/FULL – 126 Whiston Crescent, Biggleswade SG18 0HA**
Single-storey front 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.

- B24/0909.7 g. **CB/19/02624/FULL – 4 Ouse Way, Biggleswade SG18 8PZ**
Single storey rear 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.
- B24/0909.8 h. **CB/19/02885/FULL – 5 Presland Drive, Biggleswade SG18 0FU**
Two storey front 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.
- B24/0909.9 i. **CB/19/02657/VOC – 21 Lime Tree Walk, Biggleswade SG18 0DS**
Variation of Condition 2 (materials) permission CB/14/03329/FULL-
Erection of part single and part two storey rear extension and new front porch.
- 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.
- The Town Clerk will query why this application was sent by Bedford Borough.
- B24/0909.10 j. **CB/19/02703/FULL – 12 Aston Croft, Biggleswade SG18 8GR**
Single-storey side and single-storey rear 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.
- B24/0909.11 k. **CB/19/02729/FULL – 7 Fennel Drive, Biggleswade SG18 8WD**
Existing conservatory extended by 2.5 and rebuilt with traditional masonry and tile roof to match existing.
- 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.

- B24/0909.12 **I. CB/19/02640/FULL – Land to the North of Wharf Mews, Biggleswade SG18 0AW**
Existing workshop to be replaced by 2 dwellings
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION**, but raise concerns on access, parking and the historical interest of the building.
- B24/0909.13 **m. CB/19/02531/FULL – 18 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade SG18 0LS**
Dual pitched roof, timber garden room.
- 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.
- B24/0909.14 **n. CB/19/02709/REG3 – 42 Fairfield Road, Biggleswade SG18 0BS**
Garage conversion and single-storey 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.
- B24/0909.15 **o. CB/19/02639/FULL – Land to the rear of 33 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade SG18 0AT**
Conservation Area: Existing workshop to be replaced by 1 dwelling.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.
- B24/0909.16 **p. CB/19/02783/FULL – 1B Saffron Road, Biggleswade SG18 8DJ**
Single-storey rear 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.
- B24/0910 10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
- B24/0910.1 **a. Bus Services 85/85A and 188/190 in Biggleswade and East Bedfordshire**
- Email correspondence has been provided by the Locum Clerk showing the response from the Public Transport Manager to our request to postpone the service changes.

A full discussion regarding the bus service took place at the Biggleswade Joint Committee, the Minutes of which will be shortly be made available.

Members asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council, where information that was presented to the BJC will be made available, along with BJC minutes

B24/0910.2 **b. New Developments in Biggleswade – Proposed Street Names**

Cllr D Albone raised the point that we already had a street named Poppy Field

Cllr F Foster has researched names from the Cenotaph that had not been used for street naming and a list 35 names was passed to the Town Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** that the names could be put forward when there is a suitable large development

The request for inclusion of a poppy on street signs is not under the remit of Biggleswade Town Council as CBC are responsible for street signage.

B24/0910.3 **c. Central Bedfordshire Council and Network Rail – Proposed Closure Lindsell’s Level Crossing, Biggleswade Bridleway No 11.**

Sycamore Close:

Cllr F Foster:

There are two very good reasons for rescinding the resolution under discussion. Firstly, the resolution relates to the “CBC and Network Rail proposed closure of Lindsell’s Level Crossing, Biggleswade Bridleway No 11.” Was passed having been arrived at from both incomplete and wrong information as was discovered at the later Network Rail Consultation event at the Football Club.

Secondly there is no good reason why the Green Wheel should be routed through Sycamore Close. There are more appropriate routes that the Green Wheel could take which would not cause the disturbance and distress that the proposed route through Sycamore Close would undoubtedly cause the residents.

Those residents chose to live there because of the quiet and peaceful nature of the cul-de-sac, and it is against natural justice that Biggleswade Town Council should have passed a resolution which tacitly goes along with changing the status quo when there is no need to do so.

The rescission of this resolution wipes the slate clean and removes a resolution which with hindsight should have not been moved or passed. The Council made a misjudgement and should correct it.

In discussions with colleagues it has been said that the motion which resulted in this resolution should not have been brought at that time because it was very premature. They also argue that because there is

further discussion to come, there is no reason to rescind the resolution – because there will be changes made in the future.

I very much disagree with this and think it is very important that the Council does not have within its records an uncorrected resolution which should not have been made.

Cllr Foster proposed a motion to rescind the resolution 10d as was Minuted for the BTC meeting of 27 August this year and requested a recorded vote.

Votes were recorded as follows: For - 9: Against – 1

It was **RESOLVED** that the Motion for the Minutes to rescind the resolution made under item 10d of the Minutes of 27th August 2019. was carried.

B24/09/11

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning Application Outcomes

This information was **NOTED**.

It was also noted that the information on Bonds Lane was still recorded incorrectly.as awaiting a decision.

B24/09/12

12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Cllr Hayley Whitaker wished to remind Members of the forthcoming DMC in October that they may wish to attend for the discussion on Saxon Drive.

B24/09/13

13. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be moved that it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

15a. Staff Matters

15b. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Council Meeting 13/08/2019

15c. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Council Meeting 27/08/2019

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.