

**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 08 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 M North  
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay  
Cllr Mrs M Russell  
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

**A08/1101     1.     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr B Rix, Cllr T Woodward

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES**

Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr J Medlock

**A08/1102     2.     DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

- A1102.1     a.     Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item - Item 9a: Cllr B Briars.
- A1102.2     b.     Non-Pecuniary interests in any Agenda item: Items 8a and 10b: Cllr M North. Item 9f: Cllr I Bond

**A08/1103     3.     TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a.     A reminder about the Remembrance Day Parade taking place on Sunday 13 November.
- b.     An invitation for all Councillors to attend "Story in Stone" to meet the artist, Oliver Budd, and view the design for the three towns, Biggleswade, Pottton and Sandy. The event is taking place on 30 November 2016 between 4.00 pm and 8.30 pm at Robert Peel Lower School, Dapifer Drive, Sandy.

**A08/1104 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.

- A1104.1 a. Mr Mills: Has written to Central Bedfordshire Council regarding plans for the development at Bonds Lane to complain about the proposed access which is basically a pedestrian walkway. Off street parking is an absolute necessity as parking needs are increasing.

We also understand that the venue at the Lounge is closing and is subject to redevelopment. We feel we are being steamrolled by Central Beds.

I would like to suggest that the Town Council write to our four Central Beds Councillors and tell them that we are not having this and we would like them on our side. What are they doing? Are they supporting us? We are going to fight this. If not, we will lose all the space in the town and there will be no parking space at all. We need to send a clear message to our Councillors.

The Chairman said that Town Council have objected to this plan on the very same grounds, and will arrange for a letter to be sent to the District Councillors

- A1104.2 b. Mr Bacon: I find the current suggestions of parking at the station to be completely out of order. This is an insult.

**A08/1105 5. INVITED SPEAKERS**

There were no invited Speakers.

**A08/1106 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

- A1106.1 a. Cllr B Briars: Pleased to see play equipment in use at the new Kings Reach Estate; however, was surprised to see what appeared to be a "Pay & Display" Parking Meter. Do we know how/why this is here?

The Town Clerk has no knowledge of this and has already written to Central Bedfordshire Council twice this week, an acknowledgement was received that CBC has no knowledge of Pay and Display on the site. The Town Clerk will continue to make enquiries.

- A1106.2 b. Cllr Mrs M Russell: Has received extensive email communication from a resident of Broom, copied to both the Biggleswade Chronicle and Look East, regarding the closure of the Lounge and the recent bridge closures.

BTC need to be mindful about the clarity of information published on the website and facebook.

Cllr F Foster reminded Councillors that BTC has a page in the local Biggleswade Bulletin which would be an ideal platform for updating the people of Biggleswade.

**A08/1107 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

A1107.1 a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 25 October 2016.

**A08/1108 8. MATTERS ARISING**

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

A1108.1 a. Cllr Mrs M Russell reported that there was an excellent presentation at the BATPC AGM held at Houghton Village Hall which she attended on 26 October.

**A08/1109 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A1109.1 a. **CB/16/04373/FULL – Land at the corner of 63 Rowan Crescent and 1 Sutton Avenue, Biggleswade**

Demolition of existing garages; new build of 2 bedroom 3 person dwelling house. Cllr B Briars left the meeting at 7.50 pm and returned at 7.55 pm.

Concerns were noted regarding provision of parking.

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.

A1109.2 b. **CB/16/04658/FULL – Land North of Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Erection of 248 dwellings including access, landscaping and public open space.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this Application on the following grounds:

- Loss of Prime Agricultural Land
- Outside the development envelope
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Roads unsuitable to sustain increase in traffic created by proposed development.
- Community Facilities inadequate, doctors Schools etc.
- Feasibility Study needs to be carried out on proposed Northern Bypass before any development proposals come forward.
- Application premature as no Local Plan in place.

A1109.3 c. **CB/16/04860 – 6 Planets Way, Biggleswade**

Rear storey 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.

- A1109.4 d. **CB/16/04823/FULL – Smith Metal, Stratton Business Park, London Road, Biggleswade.**  
Extension to existing building.

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

- A1110.5 e. **CB/16/04686/FULL – St Andrews Lower School, Bantock Way, Biggleswade**  
A new single storey 6 classroom teaching block with associated support spaces and a single storey extension to the existing school building all with associated external works including additional car parking and revised payout, play areas, cycle parking, relocated recycling enclosure and extended Air Source Heat Pump enclosure.

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

- A1109.5 f. **CB/16/04903/FULL- 68 Dells Lane, Biggleswade**  
Single storey rear extension, first floor side/rear extension and fenestration alterations.

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.

- A1109.6 9. **CB/16/04755/FULL – 11 Lime Tree Walk, Biggleswade**  
Single storey rear 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.

**A08/1110 10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- A1110.1 a. **Biggleswade Town Bowls Club**

This item was taken in two parts:

- i) The Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to the request to hold a New Years Eve Party at the Bowls Club Pavilion, with an extension until 12.00. The bar licence and entertainment will apply up to 11 pm in accordance with the lease agreement.
- ii) The Town Council **OBJECT** to the request for the building to be used for practice sessions by the entertainer.

- A1110.2 b. **Works to trees within a Conservation Area – Biggleswade Conservative Club, St Andrews Street, Biggleswade – CB/TCA/16/00365**

The Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to this application, but would request that any trees felled must be replaced by a suitable alternative.

- A1110.3      **c.    Committee Meeting dates for 2017/2018**
- Members requested amendments to some of the dates listed. The Town Clerk will issue and circulate a new list of dates in accordance with this request.
- A1110.4      **d.    Consultation of Payphone Removal**
- This information was **NOTED**. Members felt that in the current climate, there is no reason for these phones to be kept and have **NO OBJECTION** to their removal
- A08/1111    11.   ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
- A1111.1      **a.    Planning Application Outcomes**
- Members felt that the CBC response to their question of why BTC opinions were disregarded in the Planning Application approval process had not been satisfactorily addressed, and that the Biggleswade Master Plan has been totally ignored.
- A separate meeting will be held in order to discuss a way of taking this forward.
- This item will be taken for discussion on the next Town Centre Management (TCM) Agenda, where a recommendation can then be made to Council.
- The Town Clerk was requested to ask CBC for a more comprehensive reply to our question, rather than sending a quoted extract.
- A08/1112    12.   PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**
- A1112.1      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 Sharpe: The closing of the Lounge has caused fury on social media. Perhaps the Council could start embracing social media so that people will look at social media and see the good things that the Council are trying to do. I first started coming to the Council meetings because I was fed up with hearing the Council getting the blame for everything, including the recent bridge closure. It is only through coming to the meetings that I hear for myself, and get an understanding of what the Council is trying to do. You must embrace social media and let people in this area know exactly what is going on, and they will then know what is your part of it and what is someone else's.
- Cllr Mrs M Russell said there is a concern over excessive use of social media; however we understand there is a need for promoting the work that Biggleswade Town Council undertake. We are currently undertaking a staff review and intend to allocate a member of staff to this task.

**A08/1113 13. EXEMPT ITEMS**

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.

*Minutes*

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.

BA08/1114	14.	<b><u>EXEMPT ITEMS</u></b>
		Exempt Minutes were taken by the Chair.

**Meeting closed 8.30 pm**