



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 08 OCTOBER 2019
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone
Cllr K Brown
Cllr G Fage
Cllr L Fage
Cllr F Foster (Vice Chairman)
Cllr M North
Cllr M Knight
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr M Russell (Chairman)
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr J Woodhead

Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk
Mr P Truppin – Locum Clerk
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
Members of Public –5, including Simon Newton, Town Centre Operations Manager, BTC

A08/1001 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I Bond, Cllr M Foster, Cllr R Pullinger

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

A08/1002 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A08/1002.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - None

A08/1002.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None

A08/1003 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Cllr Russell attended the following events:

25th September – Planning Training

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended planning training at CBC's office at Chicksands, presented by an external Consultant. It was a very good session and we were particularly pleased to hear that a Neighbourhood Plan when 'made' carries the same weight as the Local Plan. Indeed, if it is 'made' after the Local Plan it takes precedence.

6th October – Curry Lunch in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund

On Sunday, the Mayor and Consort attended a Curry Lunch at the Joint Intelligence Training Group at Chicksands. This is an annual fundraiser for ABF the Soldier's Charity, formerly known as the Army Benevolent Fund, and is always preceded by an interesting lecture. This year, in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, the lecture was given by Professor Peter Caddick Adams and was based on his new book, Sand and Steel: A New History of D-Day. The lecture was fascinating and shed new light on what was the turning point of the Second World War.

A08/1004 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Members of the public made the following comments:

Cllr Whittaker: Mentioned at the last meeting she has received a letter from the family of Rex Huckle regarding street naming. Is there any update?

The Chairman said that it has been agreed for this name to be added to the list of road names for potential new developments.

Mr. M Grainger, Resident, is very concerned about CBC proposed plans for Lawrence Road/Lawnside. Lawrence Road is very badly congested and a danger to children but the proposed restrictions will make things worse for residents. Mr. Grainger has written to CBC putting forward a suggestion to address the problem. This would be for Lawnside to be made Residential Parking only with parking permits for residents and their Carers and visitors.

A08/1005 5. INVITED SPEAKER

Invited Speaker: Gill Reeves, Community Agent BRCC

Gill presented a report on activity for the year, and gave examples of some of the cases she is involved in. Members asked questions on the service she provides and thanked her for a very interesting update.

A08/1006 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no Members questions.

A08/1007 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

A08/1007.1 a. Members received the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Amendments were requested as follows:

Item 7a. Sycamore Close: Add Cllr F Foster' s comments that he has a strong objection to the bridleway being routed through Sycamore Close.

Item 8a. Add the company name of NOAH following the name of Mr Prosser.

Item 10b. Proposed Street names: Add Cllr F Fosters comments that these were names that appeared twice or more on the war memorial.

Following these amendments, the Minutes will be re-presented for signature.

A08/1008 8. MATTERS ARISING

A08/1008.1 From the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2019.

A08/1008.2 a. Item 8a: The Clerk has forwarded the report from Mr Prosser of NOAH to Councillors.

b. Item 6: Cllr D Strachan: The zebra crossing at the White Hart caused safety concerns at the last Christmas Fair due to continued use by the public and traffic despite road closures. Can this area be highlighted to the police as an area that requires particular attention at this years' event? The Town Centre Operations Manager has this in hand.

A08/1009 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A08/1009.1 a. **CB/19/02839/VOC – Stratton Park Drive, Dunton Lane, Biggleswade**
Variation of Condition no.1 on Planning Permission MB/83/456 "Renewal of Planning Permission for caravan park on a permanent basis" to state that the total number of caravans shall not exceed twenty-two at any time.

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

24/0909.2 b. **CB/19/02849/FULL – 6 Lincoln Crescent, Biggleswade, SG18 8HW**
Single storey side extension and alterations to rear elevation.

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.

A08/1009.3 c. **CB/19/02718/FULL – Site of Unit N, Montgomery Way, Biggleswade**
Erection of workshop.

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

A08/1009.4 d. **CB/19/02410/FULL – 26 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade, SG18 8BE**
Change of use from A1 to Sui Generis for use as a taxi office.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application subject to a condition to be placed on the application in relation to noise and pollution from taxis waiting at the premises and providing the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

A08/1009.5 e. **CB/19/02982/FULL – 31 Buttercup Mead, Biggleswade, SG18 8TT**
Loft conversion with side hip to gable extensions, rear dormer extension and rooflights to front roof slope.

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.

- A08/1009.6 f. **CB/19/03178/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.

- A08/1009.7 g. **CB/19/03150/FULL – 84 Stratton Way, Biggleswade, SG18 0NW**
Construction of a two-storey, semi-detached 3-bedroom dwelling.

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.

A08/1010 10. ACCOUNTS

A08/1010.1 a. Financial Administration

For Members to receive and adopt the following Accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31st August 2019.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure 31st August 2019.
- iii. Income and Expenditure by budget heading 31st August 2019.
- iv. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31st August 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council adopt the Accounts presented.

A08/1010.2 b. External Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

Members received and approved the Annual Return, Year-End 31st March 2019, and the External Auditor's Certificate and Report.

Cllr Ramsay recorded thanks to the staff for their work on this Audit.

A08/1011 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A08/1011.1 a. Biggleswade Joint Committee

Members received a draft copy of the BJC Minutes from the meeting held on the 19th September 2019 for information.

It was noted that the Cllr. Russell will be requesting a correction to this draft, under item 9 since Stratton Education Trust is **not** happy with the scheme for a buildout in the bus turning area for the school.

A08/1011.2 b. Bus services 85/85A and 188/190 in Biggleswade and East Bedfordshire

Members considered the Locum Clerk's email and the response from CBC concerning the information supplied in the BJC Minutes on this subject.

It was felt that an explanation of the figures provided and a breakdown of how the bus service is funded would help with future negotiations on transport.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will write to CBC to request this information.

A08/1011.3 c. **Public Space Protection Orders**

Members welcomed this document and would like to add the Market Square and Franklins Recreation Area to the Order covering Alcohol in public areas. The Dog Fouling Order to include Stratton Way Cemetery, Drove Road Cemetery, St Andrews Churchyard and sports pitches.

It was **RESOLVED** that these comments will be added to the Consultation document.

A08/1011.3 d. **Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Lawrence Road Biggleswade**

Members are concerned about the knock-on effect of these proposals, which will have an immediate impact on the area outside the school, together with the resident's concerns over parking restrictions for carers and visitors. Council would support plans for the north side of Lawnside but would like CBC to reconsider plans for the south end and take into consider their concerns regarding resident's parking.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will take these comments to CBC,

A08/1011.4 e. **A-Boards and Tables & Chairs Policy**

This document will be posted on the BTC 'Sharepoint' system with a direct link. Councillors are asked to make any comments on the document as soon as possible, so that a final draft can be taken back to Council or the TCM, whichever is appropriate.

A08/10/12 12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

A08/1012.1 a. **PCC's Annual Parish Conference**

Cllr D Strachan gave a verbal report on the Conference which covered the various issues and challenges currently being faced by the police, such as travellers, knife crimes, bike thefts and drug related crime in Bedfordshire.

Cllr Strachan brought back a printed Report from the Conference, which can be made available for Councillors to read. Please contact the Town Clerk if you wish to borrow this document.

Cllr Strachan stressed the importance of passing information to the police as this helps their intelligence unit.

A08/1013 13. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mrs S Grayston: The Remembrance Parade is fast approaching and Mrs Grayston is pleased to inform Councillors that they have been able to make adjustments to the route so that the "walk round" is only once, which takes into account those in the parade who are less able to walk. She was also pleased to report that the police have agreed to help with road closures.

Cllr H Whitaker said that it was reported at the Rail Users Group that Bedford station car park is closing with the loss of 152 spaces. Biggleswade and Arlesey Stations are being recommended as possible alternatives which will have a huge impact on parking. Would the Town Council consider additional commuter parking in the town?

A08/1014 14. 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. Traffic Management Assessment

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.