



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 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
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M Knight
Cllr M North
Cllr R Pullinger
Cllr M Russell (Chairman)
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr J Woodhead

Mr M Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
Member of Staff - Mr S Newton - TCO Manager,
Mr D Kemp – DCK Accounting
Members of Public – 14

A11/0601 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr H Ramsay

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

A11/0602 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A11/0602.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None

A11/0602.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr M Russell, Item 11c; Cllr Brown, Item 11c; Cllr Woodhead, item 11c

A11/0603 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last two weeks have been somewhat quieter than the previous two.

On Saturday 1st June, Archie and I attended a "Beating the Retreat" at Howbury Hall in Renhold.

Beating the Retreat is an annual event in the Bedfordshire calendar, held as a fundraiser for ABF The Soldier's Charity – The Army Benevolent Fund – and taking place at different locations each year. Wind and canapes are served, there is a raffle and sometimes an auction.

The evening culminates in the Beating the Retreat, this year performed by the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps. Sunset is played and the Union flag lowered before the Band marches off.

The Mayor confirmed that she is registered to speak on behalf of the Town Council at the Examination in Public for the Local Plan, both on Friday this week and next Tuesday.

A11/0604 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A11/0604.1 a. Dr Simon Sheridan: read out a statement about the school farm closure and the reasons behind the public opposition. Following a public meeting a petition has already reached over 1600 signatures. It is hoped that BTC will support them in their efforts to protect this valuable asset.

A11/0604.2 b. Julian Vaughan – GTR Biggleswade Rail Users Group: Meets with GTR every week and is happy to assist the Council by updating them on the latest actions being discussed. The user group priorities include GTR installing additional ticket machines, updating toilets and providing additional security for cyclists. This information was welcomed, and any future updates will be well received.

A11/0605 5. INVITED SPEAKER

No Speaker

A11/0606 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None

The Chairman requested that Item 10 was taken at this point:
Members agreed.

A11/0610 10. ACCOUNTS

A11/0610.1 a. Financial Administration

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30/04/2019
- ii. Summary of income & Expenditure
- iii. Income & Expenditure in budget heading
- iv. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30/04/2019

A11/0610.2 b. Internal Audit – Final Report 2018-2019:

Staff are to be commended for the excellent financial procedures that are in place resulting in a clean bill of health from the Internal Auditor.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council approve and adopt the Internal Audit Final Report 2018-2019.

A11/0610.3 c. **Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council approve and adopt the Annual Governance statement of the Annual Return for the year ending 2018/19.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council approve and adopt Accounts and statement of accounts contained in the Annual Return for 2018/19.

Chairman thanked Mr Kemp for his valued contribution in producing the Reports, Accounts and Annual Return. Mr Kemp then left the meeting.

The Meeting then returned to the Agenda Item 7:

A11/0607 7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

A11/0607.1 a. Members received the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 28 May 2019.

An amendment was requested to Item 6b to include the wording "*compensation of £80,000 for the station*"

Following this amendment, the Minutes of 28 May 2019 were approved.

A11/0608 8. **MATTERS ARISING**

A11/0608.1 a. From the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 28 May 2019.

Regarding item 12, Public Open Session, it was clarified that the amount due for Biggleswade station is £80,000.

A11/0609 9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A11/0609.1 a. **CB/19/01426/ADV - 2 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade SG18 0AP**
New vinyl applied signage. 'Biggleswade Podiatry' vinyl applied to existing glazing.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION**

A11/0609.2 b. **CB/19/01425/FULL - 2 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade SG18 0AP**
Change of use to Podiatry Clinic (D1). Add internal wall to create lobby area and treatment room.

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

A11/0609.3 c. **CB/19/00629/VOC - Land at the Saxon Centre, Kingsfield Road, Biggleswade SG18 8AT**
Variation of Condition No 10 on Application CB/17/00573/FULL dated 05/09/2017. Approve the minor amendment plans showing the revised balconies.

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

- A11/0609.4 d. **CB/19/01481/FULL - Railway Station, Station Road, Biggleswade SG18 8AL.**
Change of use to Taxi Booking Office (Retrospective)

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

- A11/0609.5 e. **CB/19/01522/FULL – 58 Laburnham Road, Biggleswade SG18 0NY**
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 proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A11/0609.6 f. **CB/19/01421/FULL - 53 The Baulk, Biggleswade SG18 0AQ**
Retention of roof light (Retrospective)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **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 proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents

- A11/0609.7 g. **CB/19/01301/FULL - 1 Sunderland Hall Farm Cottage, Biggleswade SG18 8SD.**
Proposed first floor rear extension, front porch, 2nd floor front dormer windows. 1st floor rear extension, front porch, 2nd floor front dormer window, 1st floor front and rear dormer windows and alterations to existing dwelling.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **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 proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A11/0609.8 h. **CB/19/01519/FULL - 4 Lilac Grove, Biggleswade SG18 8TP**
Single-storey front extension and garage conversion

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds of: Loss of parking, due to business being run from there.

- A11/0609.9 i. **CB/19/01554/FULL - 234 London Road, Biggleswade SG18 8PJ**
Demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of two semi-detached 3-bedroom dwellings with tiled pitched roof.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds of: Lack of parking and poor access.

- A11/0609.10 j. **CB/19/01286/FULL - Unit 2, Omega Centre, Stratton Business Park, London Road, Biggleswade SG18 8QB**
Creation of 2nd Storey floor space and rear fire escape.

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

- A11/0609.11 k. **CB/19/001502/FULL - 11 High Street, Biggleswade SG18 0JE**
Construction of three-storey building to create 3 No flats and change of use to A2 use of ground floor of existing building to A3 Restaurant and residential use into 1 No flat following partial demolition of single-storey rear extension with ancillary parking and access.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds of:

Insufficient parking
In a conservation area - Rooflines not consistent
Access/deliveries to restaurant which should be at the back, not taking up the High Street.

- A11/0609.12 l. **CB/19/01564/FULL - 29 High Street, Biggleswade SG18 0JE**
New internally halo illuminated nationwide lozenge on a new fascia panel finished in RAL7031. New non-illuminated heritage projection sign. New edge illuminated nationwide ATM surround. Replace letterbox flap with new RAL7026. Existing shopfront frame and door to be respray RAL7026.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds of:

No internal illumination to be in the Conservation area.
Suggest looking at Lloyds Bank for example.

- A11/0609.13 m. **CB/19/01565/ADV - 29 High Street, Biggleswade SG18 0JE**
Advertisement: New internally halo illuminated nationwide lozenge on a new fascia panel finished in RAL7031. New non-illuminated heritage projection sign. New edge illuminated nationwide ATM surround.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds that it is a Conservation area and therefore no internal illumination allowed.

- A11/0609.14 n. **CB/19/01495/RM - Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade**
Reserved Matters following Outline Application CB/17/02166/OUT (52'000sqm of B2 and B8 use) details relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for Building 4 (Phase4) consisting of warehouse building and associated car, cycle and lorry parking, dock levellers, security fencing and barriers, and landscaping of phase 4.

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

A11/0611 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A11/0611.1 a. CB/TCA/19/00201 - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – Ivel House, Mill Lane.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** to the crowning of a Yew tree due to excessive growth provided that the work is carried out sympathetically and safely, and is mindful of the location, which is a school area.

A11/0611.2 b. Rights of Way Anomalies

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr I Bond and Cllr D Albone will represent BTC at a meeting with Cliff Andrews (BRCC) and Chris Dorrow (CBC) to discuss and identify any anomalies with Rights of Way within Biggleswade, together with requests for changes to CBC's Definitive Map. The preferred meeting date being Monday 24th June.

A11/0611.3 c. Save Stratton Farm – Action Group

The following statement was made by Cllr F Foster:

"Regarding Stratton School Farm"

The activities of this Council are governed by its Standing Orders and Standing Order 22 states:

"22. Every Resolution or Recommendation shall be relevant to some subject over which the Council has power or duties which affects its area."

My response to Q2 is that the Council has not discussed and should not discuss the closure of Stratton School Farm therefore a Council view does not exist.

A similar situation exists for Q3. The Council has not discussed the matter and therefore cannot provide a statement.

With regard to Q1, my opinion is that Councillor Russell does not have a conflict of interest because the closure of Stratton School Farm is not a matter for Biggleswade Town Council, therefore a conflict of interest does not arise. And, as Q2 and Q3 cannot be answered, the matter of chairing also does not arise. There should be no debate that the Council, by its Standing Orders is not supposed to have.

As an individual Councillor I regret that Stratton School Farm will close and I believe this will be the sentiment of all councillors, including Councillor Russell. Most schools are under financial pressure these days but decision relating to how their budgets are spent must remain with each school's governing bodies.

I also regret that the Stratton School Farm Action Group has chosen to personalize the issue by singling out Councillor Russell who as part of the governance team has had to arrive at a very difficult, and I'm sure, unwished for decision"

I therefore propose the following resolution:

"The future of Stratton School Farm is not a matter for Biggleswade Town Council. Therefore, it is not appropriate for the Council to provide any answers to the questions posed by the Save Stratton Farm Action Group".

Due to a declared non-pecuniary interest, Cllr Russell left the Chair and handed over to Cllr F Foster to proceed with this item.

Members considered 3 questions raised by the Group, which were put forward on the Agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the future of Stratton School Farm is not a matter for Biggleswade Town Council. Therefore, it is not appropriate for the Council to provide any answers to the questions posed by the Save Stratton Farm Action Group.

Following the conclusion of this item Cllr F Foster left the Chair and handed over to Cllr M Russell to continue with the next item on the agenda.

A11/0612 12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A11/0612.1 a. Stakeholder Brief NHS Bedfordshire CCG

A Stakeholder Brief regarding the merger of Shannon Court Surgery, Sandy and Saffron Health Partnership, Biggleswade is attached to the Agenda.

This information was **NOTED**.

A11/0612.2 b. Passenger Benefit Fund – Biggleswade Station

This information was **NOTED** and a request made for further information to be included on the next Town Council agenda for consideration.

A11/0612.3 c. Neighbourhood Plan – Update Report

Cllr Russell updated Members on the next steps and the timescales for the Consultation which will follow the Working Group feedback and analysis.

A11/0613 13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A11/0613.1 a. Member of public: Mr Peter Teuma
Objected strongly about Farm closure and wish to take issue with the statement made that it is not in the Town Council's remit.

Cllr Russell has not been singled out, but matters have been directed to her as the Chair of the Stratton School Governors.

A11/0614 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.

(Previous 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.

MA Russell
.....Approved
25 June 19.