



MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 25 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 H Ramsay
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,
Members of Public – 2

- B25/0601 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr I Bond

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES
None

- B25/0602 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- B25/0602.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None
B25/0602.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None

- B25/0603 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr M Russell gave the following update in the form of a report:

On Wednesday 12th June, I attended the launch of the Biggleswade Buzz Business Networking Group at Georges Hall. Buzz Business Networking meets in various locations across several counties, including Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and anyone can attend any of them.

The Biggleswade Group will meet every second Wednesday from 10am till noon and it is very informal. You don't have to join anything – just turn up, pay £5 and enjoy coffee and nibbles whilst networking.

On Friday 14th June, I spoke on Day 8 of the Examination in Public at the session on Land East. This was about the allocated site only and, although it has outline planning, the Inspector was satisfying himself that the allocation had been properly made and was deliverable.

I reiterated the Town Council's support for development to the east of the town rather than to the north and that the developers, UKR, are working with the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for the timely delivery of the housing and to have the most beneficial impact on our existing community.

A member of the public made an issue of the lack of healthcare provision on the site and the Inspector took this up with CBC Officers, which put them on the back foot. I made the point that the issue in Biggleswade is not premises for GPs but on the national lack of doctors wishing to be GPs. I also pointed out that CBC are planning an Integrated Care Hub not far from the site, which will have GP facilities. CBC Officers then confirmed that the Clinical Commissioning Group are consulted on S.106s and their policy is a move toward hubs rather than individual services. Officers thanked me afterwards for my support.

On Tuesday 18th June, I again spoke at the Examination on Public on Day 9, Small and Medium Allocations, A1 Corridor Sites. For Biggleswade, this meant Land North of Potton Road, the Hallam Land Management Site.

I again reiterated the Town Council's position, that we would have preferred that this site was not allocated, a position which will be reinforced should the preferred route of East/West Rail be that between Biggleswade Common and Sandy. I talked about the Common as the largest open green space within the parish and very important to residents.

I then went on to say that, if the allocation remains, the promoters must not be allowed to extend their site further to the east, as they intend and, therefore, that the Council supports the Important Countryside Gap, between the existing development and the Common, which CBC have put in the Local Plan.

I spoke in some detail of the impact of the development to the north of Potton Road on the road infrastructure in the north of the town. The Local Plan transport assessment for this site says that local improvements are all that is needed. I refuted that and also made the point that the transport assessment was at least 18 months old, since when over 400 houses have been built to the north of Potton Road.

Other spoke similarly against the development. I don't suppose the allocation will be removed from the plan, but we made some strong points about the difficulties which the town will face when it is delivered.

My final notice is that because Central Bedfordshire now wish to remove Appendix 7 from the Local Plan, together with the proposed Partial Review, the Inspector has allocated a Reserve Day to discuss this issue. He made clear that the final decision about Appendix 7 was his. As it is Town Council policy to support the Land East part of Appendix 7, I have arranged to speak again on 18th July.

B25/0604 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No public questions

B25/0605 5. INVITED SPEAKER

No Speaker

B25/0606 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr J Woodhead: Would like to acknowledge the success of the town Carnival and Funfair on Saturday 22nd June.

Cllr G Fage : Would like to record thanks to both the Deputy Town Clerk and the ground-staff for their prompt attention to his email regarding the clearance of an overgrown footpath.

B25/0607 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

B25/0607.1 a. Members received the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 11 June 2019.

Members requested an amendment to item A11/0611.3 c: Save Stratton Farm – Action Group: To add the statement made regarding Standing Orders.

Item A11/0602.2 Non-Pecuniary Interest to read: Cllr Woodhead, item 11c.

Following these amendments, the Minutes are approved.

B25/0607.2 b. Members received the Recommendations and Resolutions of the Public Lands and Open Spaces (PLOS) Committee held on Tuesday 18th June 2019. The Resolutions for the Town Entrance Signs, and the Brunel Drive Play Equipment were **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council sign the Charter for Trees.

B25/0608 8. MATTERS ARISING

B25/0608.1 a. From the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 11 June 2019.

Cllr G Fage: Requested an update on Item A11/0611.2: Meeting to identify Rights of Way Anomalies.

The meeting has been deferred to early July, date yet to be confirmed.

B25/0609 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

B25/0609.1 a. CB/19/01510/RM – Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade

Reserved Matters to outline planning permission CB/17/01266/OUT (52000B2 & B8 use) for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for Building 5 (Phase 4) consisting of warehouse building and associated car, cycle and lorry parking; dock levellers; security fencing and barriers; and landscaping.

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

B25/0609.2 b. CB/19/01497/RM – Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade

Reserved Matters: Following outline approval of CB/17/02166/OUT dated 18/10/2017 – Submission of details relating to on-site access road to serve Buildings 4 and 5 including: landscaping; road; drainage; levels; and lighting.

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

B25/0609.3 c. CB/19/01503/ADV – 11 High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0JE

Advertisement: Installation of 1 fascia sign and 1 projecting or hanging sign externally illuminated.

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

B25/0609.4 d. CB/19/01643/FULL – 6 Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade SG18 8JD
Two-storey side and 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.

B25/0609.5 e. CB/19/01682/FULL – Land Behind 33 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade SG18 0AW

Existing workshop to be replaced by 3 dwellings. Dwellings include 2 x 2.5 storey with 1 x 2 storey buildings.

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.

It was asked that concern was noted regarding the impact on the surrounding utilities in that area.

B25/0610 10. ACCOUNTS

B25/0610.1 a. Financial Administration

For Members to receive and adopt the following accounts as at 31st May 2019.

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

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

Members requested an update on the status of the bank account (Changed from NatWest to Lloyds) at the next meeting.

B25/0611 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

B25/0611.1 a. Oversight – BTC Website and Social Media Output

Members are asked to consider a proposal from Cllr F Foster regarding the Council's Website and Social Media.

Items 1 and 2 were approved, and for item 3, Cllrs Thomas, Knight, Woodhead, Albone and F Foster put themselves forward as volunteers for the Working Group.

B25/0611.2 b. Passenger Benefit Fund

Members considered a response to Govia Thameslink with priorities for the railway passenger benefit fund of £80,000.

It was agreed that a proposal be put forward for ticket machine/machines to the east of the bridge/South bound platform, and for cycle security. It was also requested that the provision of additional travel information be provided with the ticket machines if possible.

B25/0611.3 c. Serious Youth Crime Fund

The Council does not have a scheme themselves but would like to support the suggestion that the Police talk to Youth Groups and Schools to take this forward and to educate young people on reporting issues and how to eliminate them.

B25/0612 12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

B25/0612.1 a. Planning Application Outcomes

Members considered the report of Planning Application Outcomes as at 19th June 2019.

This information was **NOTED**.

B25/0612.2

b. Community Agent Report

Biggleswade Community Agent, Gill Reeves has provided a report and case studies for recent activities.

This information was **NOTED** and well received. Members requested that following her next report Gill be invited to present an update to Council, as this would be of interest to new Councillors.

B25/0612.3

c.

CBC Conference for Town and Parish Councils

The CBC Conference for Town and Parish Councils will take on Tuesday 16th July 2019 from 6pm at Beadlow Manor.

This information was **NOTED**.

B25/0613

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no questions from the public.

B25/0614

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.

(Item 15a Staff Matters)

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.