

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4  
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8DL ON THURSDAY,  
23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2020**

Present: **BTC:** Councillor M Russell, Councillor H Ramsay, Councillor F Foster  
**CBC:** Councillor S Watkins (Chairman), Councillor H Whitaker  
**BTC/CBC:** Councillor I Bond

In Attendance: **BTC Office Manager** Mrs K Croft, **CBC Community Engagement:**  
Sarah Hughes, Victoria Smith.  
**CBC Place and Communities** Ingrid Hooley

Members of the **None**  
public:

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr M North, Cllr M Foster, Mr G Jones (COT), Cllr T Stock (CBC)

**2. MEMBERS INTERESTS**

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None declared.
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Members to received and Approved the Minutes of the BJC meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Matters Arising from the Minutes of BJC meeting held 21st November 2019:

**a. Item 10 Community Safety**

Cllr Whitaker has been in contact with Nick Masters from Bedfordshire Police regarding anti-social behaviour around the Industrial Estate. Nick Masters made assurances that police presence has been stepped up and he has someone on the case.

Cllr Russell expressed her concern that house break-ins are still happening to widows who live alone and during daylight hours.

**5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of public present.

**6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman Cllr S Watkins reported that grants from the CBC Councillor Grant Scheme had been awarded to the Scouts for general repair of their Mead End premises, a Gymnastics Club for equipment and Biggleswade Youth Football Club for floodlights.

**7. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - GROWTH AND REGENERATION**

Members received an update from Ingrid Hooley: A handout was circulated representing where we are in terms of design and delivery of the building programme, including provision of a Secondary School.

It was agreed that a representative from CBC would be invited attend the next meeting to give an update on the Secondary School situation. Costs have been reviewed for delivery of a 1,500 places secondary school, still in line with the current budget.

Cllr Ramsay asked if the plans for the interchange could be made available by June 2020. It was stressed that the residents be able to view and comment on the design.

Concerns were expressed that the infrastructure needs to be in place, including the provision of a GP Surgery.

Ingrid Hooley confirmed that alternative heating sources would be considered for new homes going forward.

**8. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE**

The Chairman **NOTED** that a representative from CBC had not attended the last three meetings, and no apology had been received. It was felt that a friendly reminder of the importance of attendance was required.

- Cllr F Foster explained that the junction at Chambers Way going onto London Road, needed a roundabout or traffic lights.

Minutes of BJC Meeting 23012020 Approved

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- Cllr Russell reported that cars are parking too near the junction on Chambers Way, making it dangerous for cars to approach the junction on the right-hand side of the road. The traffic calming ramps are forcing cars to go head-on to oncoming traffic.

It was **RESOLVED** that CBC Highways will be asked to revisit this urgently.

- **Pedestrian Crossing – Potton Road**

Cllr Russell stated that there is an urgent need for a zebra crossing to be installed on Potton Road, near the Edward Peake School. A young child was recently injured, and a crossing should be put in as a priority.

It was **RESOLVED** to take this request forward to CBC Highways urgently.

## **9. REVIEW OF 106 MONIES**

Members received an update.

SH confirmed that the earliest uncommitted spend was £3000 for traffic regulation orders. Cllr Russell raised a concern about the Countryside Project Money which all appears to be going to Marston Vale. She would like to see it spent on Biggleswade. Contributions have been made to Healthcare and the Library. Details are available on the website.

SH will explore planned commitments with the relevant officers in BRCC and with Countryside Services.

## **10. BIGGLESWADE SKATE PARK**

The Chairman provided a short update: -

It was reported that the design is finalised, along with CCTV and lighting. The planning application has been submitted and is currently at the consultation stage ([CB/19/04070/FULL](#)). The closing date for comments is 30 January 2020 with a target determination date of 11 February 2020.

The application also seeks to remove the wooden fence which provides a cover for anti-social behaviour. The new skatepark should be less noisy as it is nestled into the landscape and constructed from concrete which provides a quieter riding surface. A Noise Impact Assessment has been commissioned which will be used to determine whether the fence can be removed.

It is planned that subject to planning approval and favourable weather conditions construction will commence in the Spring with a target completion date of end May 2020.

Members requested to be informed of the exact terms of the lease.

## 11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

No Exempt Items

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Committee **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

## 12. BJC MEETING DATES 2020/21

Dates for the next BJC Meetings are: -

16 April 2020 at CBC Chicksands 2pm – 4pm (due to Council meeting)

9 July 2020 at BTC

15 October 2020 at CBC

21 January 2021 at BTC

SH will update the 2020/21 workplan with items for future meetings and circulate for comment.