

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28 JULY 2015 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present: Cllr H Ramsay (Chair)
Cllr D Albone (Vice Chair)
Cllr P Biernis
Cllr M Foster
Cllr F Foster
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr G Wilson
Cllr M Russell
Cllr M North
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Kerfoot
Cllr B Rix

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Michaela Beckwith – Minute Taker

4 Members of Public (MOP)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr B Briars

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- (a) There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared in any agenda item
(b) There were no Non-pecuniary interests declared in any agenda item

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr H Ramsay announced that Watson and Clarke had invited all councillors to their topping out ceremony, which is due to take place on the 19th August at 9:30. She requested that those wishing to attend contact the Town Clerk.

Cllr H Ramsay also announced that Michaela Beckwith, a member of the administration staff, had achieved a HNC in Business with distinction.

4. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no member's questions

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no questions from the members of public

6. INVITED SPEAKERS

There were no invited speakers

7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 July 2015 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade, subject to the amendment required.

Cllr F Foster asked that under item 6 it should read 'The Town Clerk said that the block paving is a design fault'.

8. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Cllr P Biernis - item 10d. - has no problems with canoeists. However, he had been told that the canoeists may be infringing a trespass law and that the council should be aware of this. Cllr H Ramsay said that as far as she was aware we had not received any objections from residents with houses backing on to the river although their house deeds showed their properties included half the width of the river.

Cllr D Strachan – 11d. – has concerns over the CBC spokesman who has made it appear that the Town Council are against the bridge works when in fact it is just the time scale they are against. He also asked if further information had been received yet.

Cllr M Russell replied that there was a joint committee meeting on 27th July to discuss this matter. The bridge will shut on 13th December 2015 which will have a bigger impact on businesses. The works are likely to end mid-April 2016. This is due to works not taking place until the 25th December 2015 for two days and then not being able to gain possession again until Easter to finish the work. A temporary bridge is not viable as this would require the same time to install as the replacement bridge, they are looking at what pressure they can put on Network Rail through Alistair Burt, MP and through claiming for damages to local business in order to bring this issue to senior attention. At the meeting possible diversion ideas were put forward and signs will be placed along the A1 to notify the public that access across the bridge will not be possible. She added that there are a lot of details to sort out and that there will be a working group discussion taking place on 10th August to discuss this. It was also requested that no road works would take place during the period of the bridge repairs.

Cllr B Rix – item 11d – asked if Alistair Burt had been contacted yet and if so what the reply was.

Cllr H Ramsay replied that Cllr M Jones was writing to the minister of transport today.

Cllr M Russell added that the notes received from Amey had been sent to Alistair Burt and a response has yet to come.

Cllr D Strachan said that if the bridge was closed longer over the Christmas period when there is less traffic then there would be a shorter overall closure.

Cllr H Ramsay said that there's repairs to be made rather than just replacing the bridge and that it is the train operating companies who exert the pressure on Network Rail to minimise the possessions. Buses were suggested if there was to be a longer closure.

Cllr F Foster - item 11d, the pot of money referred to that could be made available for the Market Square; the Town Clerk is already following this up, is there any update.

The Town Clerk replied, there is nothing to report at this meeting, however an item relating to this will be on an agenda in August 2015.

Cllr B Rix asked if any updates were available on items 11a & b of the minutes.

The Town Clerk replied that the officer dealing with footpaths was on leave until the beginning of August and no response has been received from Network Rail.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/01874/FULL – 10 The Baulk, Biggleswade**
Single storey side/rear extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided 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 extension to the principal dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- b. **CB/15/02405/FULL – Potton Road, Biggleswade Hospital, Biggleswade**
Installation of re-placement sewage pump station.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.

- c. **CB/15/02460/FULL – Potton Road, Land fronting Potton Road Nurseries, Biggleswade**
Erection of new sub-station to front of plots 102 & 103.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.

- d. **CB/15/02476/FULL – Hitchmead Road, Ivel Valley School Secondary Site, Biggleswade**
Replacement of existing chain-link boundary fencing with new 2 m high palisade fencing.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.

- e. **CB/15/02600/full – 60 Derwent Avenue, Biggleswade**
Two storey side extension and single storey front following demolition of side garage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application subject to there being sufficient off road parking.

Cllr M Russell proposed that applications that had any impact on parking should be highlighted to CBC

Cllr D Strachan asked if all issues regarding planning applications could be passed on to the Central Bedfordshire Councillors to follow up.

- f. **CB/15/02307/ADV – London Road, Unit F, Retail Park**
Advertisement: 2 No. fascia illuminated signs & 4 No. illuminated totem logo signs to existing totems.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members to received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 May 2015
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 May 2015

b. Members to received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 30 June 2015.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 30 June 2015

Cllr M North (Chair of Finance) said that he was satisfied with the accounts and recommended that they be adopted.

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Bedfordshire Constabulary**

Cllr G Wilson reported that he had made contact with Inspector Anita Clarke who will answer any questions regarding the crime figures. He asked for councillors to email him any questions they wish to put forward to Inspector Anita Clarke.

Cllr I Bond suggested that it would be useful to know how many of the crimes reported were actually attended.

It was **RESOLVED** that councillors contact Cllr G Wilson with any questions they wished to put forward to Inspector Anita Clarke.

b. **Central Bedfordshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule public consultation**

Cllr M Russell asked if the planning department could come to talk about CIL and the development plan in order to inform the council how it will effect Biggleswade and how CIL will fall into the neighbourhood plan, if it goes ahead.

Cllr D Albone seconded the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that a member of the planning department should be invited along to talk about the CIL and how it will impact on Biggleswade and how it will fall into the neighbourhood plan.

Cllr D Strachan said that he would like to know how 106 expenditure, which has to be more project based, fits in with CIL.

Cllr F Foster asked that if an invited speaker was to come, it would be best to hold it on a separate night to the council meeting as the previous time an invited speaker attended a council meeting, the meeting did not conclude until very late.

Cllr I Bond suggested that the council should ask David Lamb to return as he was knowledgeable.

Cllr M Russell said that the CIL money raised in Biggleswade could be used in places like Dunstable as Biggleswade will only have 15% of the money to control. She also agreed with Cllr F Foster that the meeting should be held on a different night,

Cllr M Foster suggested that council should put a list of projects together before the money is received.

Cllr M Russell replied that they should wait to understand how the money can be used and find out who controls the other 85%.

Cllr D Albone raised the point that the consultation is only open until 24th August 2015.

The Town Clerk assured Cllr D Albone that he would try and arrange a meeting with the planning department prior to the closing date.

c. Biggleswade Green Wheel Development Group

Cllr I Bond enquired as to how often the committee met.

Cllr B Kerfoot replied that it was quarterly.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr M North and Cllr I Bond were nominated to serve on the Biggleswade Green Wheel Development Group. Cllr P Biernis was nominated as a substitute for this committee.

d. Splash Park Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that;

- (i) Cllr B Briars has been elected on to the Splash Park Committee
- (ii) Cllr B Kerfoot has been elected as a substitute on to the Splash Park Committee.

e. The Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Statement of Principles

It was **RESOLVED** that councillors were to let the Town Clerk know of any comments they wish to raise.

f. Charity Rugby Fun Day in Aid of Biggleswade Splash Park. 5th September

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr P Biernis, as chairman of the Rugby Club, would send out individual invitations to which the councillors could respond.

g. Alternative Site – Green Waste Collection during the Closure of Biggleswade Waste Recycling Centre

Cllr M Foster asked if the lease on Dan Albone Car Park allowed for the green waste collection point to be there.

The Town Clerk said that the Fen Reeves will have to be consulted on the matter.

Cllr M North said that it was a good place but there could be another one the other side of town too. Perhaps at the bowls club.

Cllr M Russell thought that it would not be fair on those who wanted to play bowls or tennis and that the car park is small. However, Sandy have a site which CBC is hoping will be made available to Biggleswade residents.

Cllr P Biernis asked who would maintain the site.

The Town Clerk answered that it would be the operators of the waste vehicles.

Cllr B Rix said that it will need to be clearly advertised that it is only for green waste. He also had some concern over the sharp bend the Dan Albone Car Park is on with the heightened amounts of traffic there will be. He further wanted to ensure that Central Bedfordshire Council had considered the disturbance to surrounding neighbours.

Cllr P Biernis asked if the green waste collection point would commence on Monday 3rd August.

The Town Clerk informed Cllr P Biernis that it would only be there on the weekends.

Cllr H Ramsay said that she had spoken to Cllr M Jones to see if the public could put out an extra garden bag.

Cllr F Foster asked what provisions were going to be in place to watch the site in order to stop dumping.

The Town Clerk said he will ask waste services at Central Bedfordshire Council.

Cllr M Russell said it's not an ideal situation and Central Bedfordshire Council will have to manage it but it's the least worst option. She also mentioned that if more bags are given out then we must ensure the bin men will collect them.

Cllr D Albone said that Dan Albone Car Park will have to be monitored and must have sufficient signs to discourage dumping and if dumping does occur then Central Bedfordshire Council will clear it up.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will contact the Fen Reeves to ensure the green waste collection point is allowed within the Dan Albone Car Park. It was also **RESOLVED** that he will also ask waste services at Central Bedfordshire Council what provisions will be in place to prevent fly tipping.

12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Planning application outcomes**

Cllr M Russell was disappointed that planning applications were being granted despite them having no suitable parking and the Town Council raising this point.

Cllr B Rix asked if the future sheet could contain an extra column with the Central Bedfordshire Councillors who have been able to take the issues raised forwards regarding the application.

b. **Planning Application CB/15/02243/FULL 12 Kitelands Road**

It was noted that this application has been withdrawn as the gates/fence have been sited on highway land.

c. **Maunder Avenue Footpath**

The Town Clerk informed council that no response had been received yet.

d. **Proposed Emergency Temporary Road Closure at Potton Road, Biggleswade – Update**

Cllr D Strachan raised the point that the closure had already taken place but had not been well sign posted. He also said that cars had been driving over the path. Central Bedfordshire Council should manage the works better and should look at these issues.

Cllr P Biernis asked why the Eastern Relief Road was not open yet as it seems to be complete.

Cllr H Ramsay said she understood that it would open once a certain number of houses were sold.

Cllr M Russell proposed that the council could write to Gareth Hews at Central Bedfordshire Council and Paul Masons boss in order to ensure that the bridge works are better managed.

Cllr M Foster seconded Cllr M Russell's proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council should write to Gareth Hews and Paul Mason's boss at Central Bedfordshire Council to ensure that further roadworks are better managed.

e. Re-modelling of the Household Waste Recycling Centre – Update

The information provided by Central Bedfordshire Council on the Re-modelling of the Household Waste Recycling Centre was noted.

f. River Safety at the weir by Biggleswade Mill

Cllr M Russell said that the reply received from the Environment Agency was disingenuous. It says that there is no money. However, at a meeting previously with the IPA she was told that European Union money can be used. She felt that the council should keep an eye on the matter and write to the Environment Agency in a few months' time to see where we are.

Cllr H Ramsay suggested that a public speaker could be asked along in the next few months.

Cllr F Foster pointed out that the maintenance programme says that weeds have been cut when in fact nothing has taken place.

Cllr P Biernis suggested that a letter is written to the Environment Agency as with the recent rain flooding can occur. The willow trees along the river are getting long and causing debris in the river.

Cllr M Russell pointed out that the willow trees were Town Council responsibility. She also enquired about the fallen tree by Jordan's Mill which has been set on fire.

The Town Clerk said that there had been a bird nesting inside it and that is the reason why it has yet to be removed.

Cllr B Rix asked if the Town Clerk could ensure the ground staff kept on top of Town Council area of responsibilities.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council are to write to the Environment Agency in a few months' time to see what is happening regarding the weir at Biggleswade Mill. It was also **RESOLVED** that a speaker is invited to a future council meeting.

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

MOP 1 – raised concerns over the closure of the tip. The green waste isn't a problem as there are the green bags, but he asked where is the household waste going to go. He said that an opening date should be pressed for. He also asked that the Town Council should tell Central Bedfordshire Council that they have messed up with the closure of the tidy tip.

Cllr H Ramsay – Central Bedfordshire Council are trying to arrange with Sandy to allow the household waste to go there and a letter will be written to Central Bedfordshire Council. There will also be further public communication.

Cllr M Russell – Supports the views of MOP1 and believes that a stronger letter should be written to Central Bedfordshire Council, not just relating to Dan Albone Car Park but the whole town.

14. 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(s) is discussed.

Agenda Item ()

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.