

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

**Present:** Cllr H Ramsay (Chair)  
Cllr S Watkins  
Cllr I Bond  
Cllr M Russell  
Cllr M North  
Cllr G Wilson  
Cllr D Lawrence  
Cllr J Lawrence  
Cllr P Biernis  
Cllr B Briars  
Cllr D Albone  
Cllr B Rix

Mr R McGregor (Town Clerk)  
Miss M Beckwith (Administrator)

**9 MOP's (Member of the Public)**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr W Smith

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr D Albone declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9H  
Cllr H Ramsay declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9A

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr H Ramsay announced that this meeting was to be the last full council meeting until 19<sup>th</sup> May. She thanked all councillors and staff for their commitment and support of Biggleswade Town Council not only at council meetings but also for the work on the various Council committees. The contributions made to this Council by councillors Rex Skinner, Peter Vickers and Peter Woodward will be remembered. She hoped that the councillors who have decided to retire, enjoy their increased leisure time – their contributions will certainly be missed! There will be some new faces around the table in May but in the meantime The Town Annual Assembly is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May which Cllr H Ramsay hoped all will support.

Cllr H Ramsay and Cllr M Russell attended Sandy Civic Service 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015.  
Cllr H Ramsay attended the Pets at Home re-launch on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015.  
Cllr H Ramsay attended Biggleswade and District Scouts St Georges Day Parade 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015.  
Cllr S Watkins attended the Carnival Selection on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**4. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence asked if any progress had been made with the A Boards.  
The Town Clerk said that progress had been made.

**5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

**6. INVITED SPEAKERS**

There was no invited speaker.

**7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members approved the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

**8. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**a. CB/15/01251/FULL – 157 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade**

Two storey side extension and single storey 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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**b. CB/15/01131/FULL – 20 Brunswick Close, Biggleswade**

Two storey side extension and single storey front 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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**c. CB/14/01212/FULL – 44 Lindsell Crescent, Land adjacent to, Biggleswade**

Erection of a new detached dwelling.

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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**d. CB/15/01289/FULL – 5 Chapel Fields, Biggleswade**

Convert the garage into a habitable space.

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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**e. CB/15/01055/FULL – 4 Mulberry Close, Biggleswade**

Erect a fence greater than 1 m next to a public highway.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided that visibility for traffic on the public highway is checked on site before determining the application.

**f. CB/15/01340/FULL – 51 The Baulk, Biggleswade**

Single storey side 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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- g. CB/15/01184/FULL – Unit 1, A1 Retail Park, London Road, Biggleswade**  
Installation of AC Condensers, air handling unit and erection of external fence plant enclosure.

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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- h. CB/15/01315/FULL – 5 Drove Road, Biggleswade**  
Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of new single storey extension to the rear of the property.

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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- i. CB/15/01412/ADV – 6 Mercury Lane – Baden Powell Way, Land to front of, Biggleswade**  
Advertisement: Placement of a display board.

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 principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

### **a. Financial Administration**

Members received and adopted the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

### **b. Internal Audit Report 2014-15 (Final update)**

Members received and approved the Internal Audit Report 2014-15 (Final update)

Cllr D Lawrence informed members that the Bedfordshire pension fund was in deficit and council should consider this in their reserves.

## **11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **a. Bedfordshire Constabulary**

Cllr G Wilson had strong doubts over the reported crimes as they are not classified correctly which causes the end crime figures to be distorted. Cllr G Wilson had tried to meet with Sgt Kidd but he has been out in various locations.

Cllr J Lawrence has received a report from a member of the public regarding the intoxicated people in the bus shelter.

Cllr H Ramsay asked if Cllr G Wilson could also mention this to Sgt Kidd when they meet.

### **b. Rose Lane Car Park – Update**

Cllr M Russell asked for council to consider the installation of the extra soakaway for the cost of £6218 which will take up to two weeks to complete. The delays have partly been caused due to the Town Council procedures. On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 a meeting between Mr Rob McGregor and Amey occurred on site where it was confirmed that the other gullies were no cause for concern. The option of installing

permeable tarmac is unnecessary if the extra soakaway is installed. The option to have an annual pump out of the drains will be investigated.

Therefore Cllr M Russell **PROPOSED** that council should opt for the extra soak away for the cost of £6218.

Cllr D Albone asked if a particular sub straight would be required or if the regular one could be used.

Mr R McGregor confirmed that the same sub straight would be used and that he was currently waiting for the costs for annually cleaning out of the drains and that it would only take around one morning per year. He has also been speaking with Central Bedfordshire Council to see if they would take some responsibility for the cleaning to which they said they were prepared to look at. The council has been advised that the extra soakaway is required.

Cllr J Lawrence asked when the project would be completed and what the final costs would be.

Mr R McGregor said that the project was delayed as the additional work had to be taken to council but it can start once the decision has been made tonight. There will be a 9 day delay and will cost around £83000 once the £6000 has been added to the original price.

Cllr B Briars did not like the idea of the permeable tarmac as it may not stay permeable with all the dust and dirt which occurs in a car park. Therefore, he seconded the proposal made by Cllr M Russell.

Council **RESOLVED** that the installation of the extra soakaway should be installed at an additional cost to the contract of £6,218.00 + Vat.

## 12. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### a. **Planning application outcomes**

Cllr M Russell was pleased to see that planning application 15/00630/LB for the High Street had been declined.

Cllr B Briars was disappointed to see that application 15/00119/ADV had been approved as internally illuminated signs are not usual along the High Street.

### b. **Thank you letters**

The thank you letters were received and noted from the following recipients of Town Council Grants and unused Mayoral Allowance:

Citizen Advice Bureau  
New Horizon Club  
Biggleswade & District Choral Society  
Mid Beds Link-a-Ride  
Mayflower Social Club  
Biggleswade Sports  
Biggleswade First Aid Club  
Trinity Community Project  
BiggleswadeFM  
Biggleswade Good Neighbours Scheme  
The Avenue

### c. **Roadwork's Bulletin 20<sup>th</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> May**

A copy of the Roadwork's Bulletin was received and noted.

## 13. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

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.

No exempt items.

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.