



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2020
AT 7PM 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 (Vice Chairman)
- Cllr M Foster
- Cllr M North
- Cllr M Knight
- Cllr R Pullinger
- Cllr H Ramsay
- Cllr M Russell (Chairman)
- Cllr D Strachan
- Cllr C Thomas
- Cllr J Woodhead
- Jackie Sadek, Chief Operating Officer at UK Regeneration (Item 1-5)
- Gill Marshall, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at UK Regeneration (Item 1-5)

Mr P Truppin – Acting Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Miss H Calvert – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council

Members of Public – 16 Members of the Public including Cllr Steven Watkins, Cllr Hayley Whitaker, Sheila Grayston

B25/0201 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

None

B25/0202 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

B25/0202.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item: None

B25/0202.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item: Item 11b – Cllr M North

B25/0203 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

12th February - Sod-Cutting Ceremony – Co-Op Regional Distribution Centre

The Mayor was invited by Tom Leeming of Tritax Symmetry, who recently spoke to Council about the project, to attend the ceremony to mark the start of the building of the Co-Op Regional Distribution Centre on Stratton Business Park.

23rd February - Leighton Linlade Civic Service

The Mayor was pleased to support the Mayor of Leighton Linlade, Cllr. David Bowater, at his civic service at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard.

24th February - Mantles Court Commencement Ceremony

The Mayor attended the commencement ceremony to mark the start of the building of the care home on the site of the former Mantles Garage. The garage had been run by three generations of the Mantles family and to mark this, Quantum Care who are building and will run the home, are to call it Mantles Court. It was a very wet morning but fortunately Quantum Care had arranged for coffee and speeches in the pub opposite.

B25/0204 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

B25/0205 5. INVITED SPEAKER

Members welcomed Jackie Sadek, Chief Operating Officer at UK Regeneration, to the meeting.

Jackie Sadek informed members of a further Planning Application to create two new access points to the UKR development site. The proposed access points will be situated off Baden Powell Way and Dunton Lane. This Planning Application will help to support accessibility to the UKR site.

It was noted that UKR are seeking to submit this Planning Application to CBC in early March of this year, and that outline planning consent has already been obtained for the UKR site.

Members were pleased to see that previous comments made by Council had been taken on board.

The following was discussed:

- UKR will ensure that the site's new homes are built without gas to help meet CBC's carbon neutral aims.
- It was confirmed that pylons will be removed and cables put underground at the UKR site.
- UKR wish to own and manage the Linear Park.
- Concerns were raised that Dunton Lane is already a narrow road carrying a substantial amount of traffic. Members were informed that UKR are looking into the potential to undertake improvement works at Dunton Lane.
- It was noted that UKR wish to begin work to create these two new access points by the end of this year. However, a time for these works to be completed could not be confirmed as that this was dependent on CBC.

B25/0206 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no members questions.

B25/0207 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- B25/0207.1 a. Members received the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 11th February 2020** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

The following amendments were proposed:

- Cllr F Foster is the vice-chairman, not Cllr M Foster.
- Cllr R Pullinger was not present at the meeting and gave his apologies.

Subject to these amendments, the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

B25/0208 8. MATTERS ARISING

- B25/0208.1 a. Members received the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday **11th February 2020**.

Cllr M North requested an update on Item 11c, Car Parking Review Schedule of Changes to the Parking Orders. Members were informed that the Acting Clerk and the Town Centre Operations Manager are in the process of progressing this item.

B25/0209 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- B25/0209.1 a. **CB/20/00479/FULL – Land East of London Road, Stratton Business Park, London Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8QB**

Erection of Class A1 retail foodstore with associated car parking, accesses, landscaping, substation and associated engineering works.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application. However, road safety concerns were raised over the increase of vehicles and their interaction with HGVs from other businesses on Stratton Business Park.

- B25/0209.2 b. **CB/20/00545/FULL – Land to the rear of 48 to 52 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade, SG18 0LS**

Construction of new residential bungalow, formation of access, parking, turning and garden areas.

Members **OBJECTED** to this Planning Application on the grounds of overdevelopment, potential loss of parking spaces on an already congested road, and difficulties accessing the proposed development.

- B25/0209.3 c. **CB/20/00241/FULL – 22 Windermere Drive, Biggleswade, SG18 8LS**
Front porch extension and two storey side extension, removal of existing ground floor rear window, demolition of existing detached garage.

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 size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

B25/0209.4 d. **CB/20/00152/FULL – 41 High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0JH**

Erection of an outbuilding at rear of 41 High St Biggleswade. The temporary structure will act as a show extension, to show case the construction of a timber building.

Members noted that this is a retrospective Planning Application as the construction has already been erected.

Members had **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application but requested that a condition be included that this temporary structure should be reviewed every 3 years, and within a maximum of five years, as per Planning Applications for portacabins.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Acting Clerk to write to CBC Enforcement in regards to signage.

B25/0210 10. ACCOUNTS

B25/0210.1 a. **List of Payments**

Members **ADOPTED** the following accounts:

- Lloyds Current Account - List of Payments made between 01/01/2020 and 31/01/2020.
- NatWest Current Account – List of Payments made between 01/01/2020 and 31/01/2020.

B25/0210.2 b. **Financial Administration**

Members **ADOPTED** the following accounts:

- i. Annual Budget Report by Committee
- ii. Detailed Balance Sheet - Excluding Stock Movement 31/01/2020
- iii. Summary of Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/01/2020
- iv. Summary of Income & Expenditure by Projected Budget Heading 31/01/2020
- v. Income and Expenditure based on actual budget heading 31/01/2020.
- vi. Income and Expenditure based on projected budget heading 31/01/2020.

B25/0211 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

B25/0211.1 a. **Bank Mandate Signatories**

Members considered changing the status of signatories to the Council Bank Accounts.

Members noted the recent issues in signing cheques due to the current mandate which has A and B signatories.

Members **APPROVED** the proposal for all signatories to be made equal so that any three may sign.

B25/0211.2 b. **Request for a crossing at Dells Lane**

Members discussed the request for a crossing at Dells Lane.

Members supported this request and agreed that a pelican crossing would be most appropriate.

Members further felt that it would be useful to gain the opinions of school children at Biggleswade Academy on where best to place a crossing. CBC Highways would also need to assess possible sites.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Acting Clerk to write to the Headteacher of Biggleswade Academy concerning these matters.

It was **AGREED** to discuss this request at the Biggleswade Joint Committee Meeting on 19th March 2020.

B25/0212 12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

B25/0212.1 a. **OPCC Newsletter February 2020**

Members **NOTED** the informative report.

B25/0212.2 b. **Planning Application Outcomes**

Members received the Planning Application Outcomes as at 17th February 2020.

Members noted that the CBC outcome information had still not been updated for the Bonds Lane and Foundry Lane Planning Application (CB18/02353/FULL). It was confirmed that Cllr Bond will follow this up.

It was noted that there were no Town Council comments alongside the Albone Way Unit 1 (19/03294/FULL) Planning Application, which had been subject to a further revision.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold a separate meeting to discuss this Planning Application before the F&GP Meeting on 3rd March 2020.

B25/0212.2 c. **Changes to bus services between Bedford, Biggleswade & Hitchin**

Members noted that the commercial operator of the 188 & 190 bus services between Biggleswade and Hitchin has given notice that they intend to withdraw the services from 29th March 2020.

Members were pleased to learn that the bus service operator, Grant Palmer, will be expanding the service they provide from 30th March 2020 onwards. It was felt that this new service provides greater benefit to the community.

Members also noted the amendment to the 200 local bus service.

B25/0213 13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Cllr Hayley Whitaker informed members that CBC's Highways team will be conducting speed monitoring at Dells Lane and Potton Road. She said that CBC are supportive of the request for a crossing at Dells Lane.

A member of the public raised concerns of speeding along Sun Street. Cllr Steven Watkins promised to take this matter forward and initiate speed monitoring with CBC.

B25/0214 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.

(Design Brief for the Hallam development)

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.