



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 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 (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

Mr M Thorn, Deputy Town Clerk  
Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk  
Mr P Truppin – Locum Clerk  
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council  
Members of Public 3, including Simon Newton, Town Centre Operations Manager, BTC.

**A12/1101 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES**

None

**A12/1102 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A12/1102.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - None

A12/1102.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item:  
Cllr G Fage, item 11a  
Cllr H Ramsay, item 7

**A12/1103 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**26 October: Biggleswade Indian Society Diwali Celebration**

The Mayor was unaware of the Biggleswade Indian Society until receiving an invitation to their Diwali celebration at the Orchard Centre through former Councillor Sarju Patel. The Society is a large group of Indian origin residents of the town who celebrate their Hindu festivals and ensure that their children are taught their culture. The children performed Indian dances and acted out the story of one of their Hindu gods. A great bringing together of different cultures. We were also treated to some classical Indian music played on a sitar by one of our Biggleswade residents.

**27 October: Ampthill Civic Service**

The Mayor was pleased to support the Mayor of Ampthill, Cllr Ian Titman at his service at St Andrews Church, Ampthill.

**5 November: Reception to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth Remembrance Trust**

The Shuttleworth Trust was set up in 1944 by Dorothy Shuttleworth in memory of her son, Richard, who was killed in a flying accident. Richard had been interested in agriculture, cars and aeroplanes and had established the airfield at Old Warden and the nucleus of the car and plane collections that we know today.

The Mayor was interested to hear that Richard Shuttleworth knew the author of the Biggles books, Capt. W.E. Johns, who had visited Shuttleworth and it is thought that Biggles may have been named after Biggleswade.

**10 November: Remembrance Parade**

The Mayor wants to thank staff and colleagues for a successful Parade, Service and Reception afterwards at the Town Hall. We were pleased to have the support of Deputy Lieutenant Rob Lovesey and his wife Ann – who is also Chairman of the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils – and also the support of our retiring MP, Alistair Burt. We should also note the support of the Police for the event.

**A12/1104 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**A12/1105 5. INVITED SPEAKER**

Invited Speaker: Kathryn Holloway, Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, did not attend the meeting.

**A12/1106 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

A12/1106.1 a. Cllr G Fage has received a request from a member of public to query the procedure of publishing draft minutes on the BTC website which he understood to be a council resolution.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that Minutes of Meetings are published within 28 days of the meeting, or sooner as in the case of the Council Meetings which take place twice monthly.

A12/1106.2 b. Cllr G Fage asked if there was an update on street signage issues. Cllrs I Bond and D Albone were due to meet with CBC Officers to discuss footpaths, (not including signage), however this meeting was cancelled. The signage is part of the town decluttering exercise and will be covered on the forthcoming Biggleswade Joint Committee (BJC) next week.

A12/1106.3 c. Cllr L Fage reminded Members that next year is the 75-year anniversary of VE Day and that the Bank Holiday has been moved to accommodate the occasion. BTC Staff have already been in communication with the British Legion regarding forthcoming plans for this special Commemoration and would be pleased to receive input from Councillors.

**A12/1107 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

A12/1107.1 a. Members received the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 22 October 2019 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Cllr G Fage asked that item B22/1011.3 d) on page 5 be removed from the Minutes.

Following this amendment, the Minutes will be represented for signature.

**A12/1108 8. MATTERS ARISING**

From the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2019.

A12/1108.1 a. B22/1010.1 a) **Town Centre Management**  
Sentence to be amended to read "Town Centre Management" as words have been transposed.

A12/1108.2 b. B22/1019.2 b) **Biggleswade Joint Committee Terms of Reference.**  
It was reported that these have been finalised and will be presented for discussion on the Biggleswade Joint Committee Agenda next week.

**A12/1109 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A12/1109.1 a. **CB/19/03482/FULL – 48 Lincoln Crescent, Biggleswade SG18 8HW**  
Proposed single-storey 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 size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A12/1109.2 b. **CB/19/03521/FULL – 120 London Road, Biggleswade SG18 1EL**  
First floor 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 size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A12/1109.3 c. **CB/19/03588/FULL – 24 Anderson Road, Biggleswade SG18 8FX**  
Loft Conversion with Front Cottage Dormer and Rear Roof Velux

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.

- A12/1109.4 d. **CB/19/03309/FULL – 61 Lincoln Crescent, Biggleswade SG18 8HP**  
Single-storey side extension and single-storey 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 size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A12/1109.5 e. **CB/19/03608/FULL – 7 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade SG18 8PF**  
Proposed two-storey and single-storey rear extension and internal alterations.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town council defer this application as the documents presented are incomplete and an informed decision cannot be made. In view of the time constraints for planning applications Members requested that the Clerk write to ask CBC for an extension to the deadline on this application.

- A12/1109.6 f. **CB/19/03446/FULL – 162 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade SG18 8BP**  
Rear two-storey 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 size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A12/1109.7 g. **CB/19/03605/FULL – Land east of Stratton Business Park, Biggleswade**  
Creation of a bund.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.

- A12/1109.8 h. **Biggleswade Town Council and Langford Parish Council**  
Assistance is requested from Langford Parish Council in a significant planning matter. Documents relating to this Application, CB/18/04783/OUT for 55 dwellings, are available for viewing online.

Langford Parish Council have objected to this Application. This was rejected by CBC, and an Appeal is now underway, Reference: APP/P0240/W/19/3236423.

It was **RESOLVED** that Biggleswade Town Council will write to the Inspector with a letter of support of Langford Parish Council's objection to the Appeal, copied to CBC and Langford Parish Council.

The letter will express our concerns that these plans are not in the Local Plan, or the Langford Neighbourhood Plan, and will encroach on Parish boundary and protection of the valuable green space.

**A12/1110 10. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**A12/1110.1 a. Request for street name – Rex Huckle**

We have received a request from the family of Mr Huckle requesting that we consider Rex Huckle for a street name in view of his contribution to the town.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold this name for a small development where it can be the name of a “stand-alone” road, rather than part of a large themed development.

The Town Clerk will write to Mr Huckle’s son to let him know that the Council do certainly wish to recognise his father, and to let him know that we are keeping his name on a priority list for placement on an appropriate street.

**A12/1110.2 b. Luton Airport**

A Consultation is taking place 16 October – 16 December 2019 to look at proposals to expand Luton London Airport in terms of the future number of passengers and flights it can handle. The Consultation and feedback forms can be found on the website under: **futureluton.lial.org.uk**

It was **RESOLVED** that BTC welcome this proposal; with the caveat that there are concerns over possible flight path issues in the future.

**A12/1110.3 c. Council Meetings**

BTC has received a request to increase Committee Meetings from four to six in order to increase promptness on actions required for the benefit of the town.

It was **RESOLVED** that Committee Meetings will be increased from four to six from January 2020. The Town Clerk will draw up a new timetable to be put in place in the new year (using available Tuesday evenings).

**A12/1110.4 d. CBC Polling places and Polling districts**

A Consultation document is available online, under reference: **centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations**, and we are invited to complete the questionnaire by 11 December 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members will respond to this individually. If there are any issues, please notify the Town Clerk and this item can then be put on the next Council Agenda.

**A12/1111 11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**A12/1111.1 a. CB/TCA/19/00483 – Works to trees in a conservation area: Claremont Court, Rose Lane, Biggleswade**

This information was **NOTED**.

A12/1111.2 b. **Meeting with Bedfordshire Police**

Members were pleased to receive the Report from PCSO Ann Jeeves covering the work that the local Community Policing Team have completed, and the progress made on issues relating to Biggleswade taken forward by Chief Superintendent Boyle from his meeting with Biggleswade Council. BTC Cllr Bond and Cllr Strachan have released a copy of the Report which is attached to the Agenda.

A12/1111.3 c. **Letter from Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP**

Members **NOTED** the letter from Rt Hon Alistair Burt who will not be contesting the next General Election. Members wish to thank him for his support and wish him well for the future.

**B12/1012 12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mr Keith Seddons, Siggys Café: Reported the concerns of all the shopkeepers over the recent spate of constant burglaries, thefts and vandalism that have been taking place regularly – all at approximately 2am in the morning, in all the shops in Abbots Walk, for the last three months. No action appears to have been taken, and despite shops leaving their empty tills on view, the premises are still being broken into and vandalised.

Together with the obvious stress of the situation, this is also having an effect on insurance premiums for the shopkeepers.

Councillors were very concerned to hear this and Cllr Strachan undertook to take this information to Chief Superintendent Boyle as a matter of urgency. This topic will also be placed on the next Council Agenda for follow up.

**A12/1113 13. 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.

**(14a Health Provision)**

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.