

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2013 AT THE
OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs H Ramsay (Chair), Cllr I Bond, Cllr Mrs M Russell, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr T Woodward,
Cllr B Briars, Cllr D Albone, Cllr B Rix, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr S Watkins
Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Sam Vernon – Biggleswade Chronicle
Members of the public - 6

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr M North and Cllr R Skinner.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

c. Town Mayor's Announcements

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay made the following announcements:

The Town Council Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday 13 December.

There will be a MacMillan Coffee Morning at Town Council offices on Friday 27 September.

The Mayor will be hosting a Charity Harvest Dinner on 5 October.

The Mayor's Civic Service will take place on Sunday 16 March 2014

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker.

5. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr B Briars raised a question on S.E.P.T who had previously attended a Town Council meeting; Cllr Briars asked if S.E.P.T could be invited back to update Council on the concerns around bed allocations at Potton Hospital.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay informed members that she was not sure who was now in charge of Potton Hospital; as there has been a change in the Health Authority. Cllr Ramsay asked that the Clerk invite the relevant body to a meeting of the Council.

Cllr B Rix raised a question on the level of broadband available at Kings Reach.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay asked Cllr Rix to raise this under item 6b on the council agenda.

6. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 July 2013 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. Members received a Draft copy of the minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 17 July 2013.

Page 2 - Cllr B Rix – item 6 i) – Poor Broadband service at Land East – Cllr B Rix said that residents of Kings Reach are having trouble with Broadband speed; the minutes say that Cllr Jones will monitor the situation, is there any more information on this.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay said that Cllr Jones and the developer are trying to resolve the issue with BT.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that she will raise this issue at the Joint Management Committee on 16 October 2013.

Cllr Briars asked if any more detail was available on the damage to the Meccano Bridge.

Cllr Mrs M Russell informed members that the damage is not as drastic as first thought.

Cllr Mrs M Russell informed members of a breakfast meeting that was being arranged by C.B.C; the meeting is to engage with the traders in the town and will be held at Jordan's Mill.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 July 2013 - None

8. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **CB/13/02385/VOC – Cold Harbour, 124 Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Variation of Condition no 4 on planning application MB/04/02080/FULL dated 24/12/2004 to be varied to allow use of the detached garage/games room as an annexe to Cold Harbour Cottage.

Condition 4: The building hereby permitted shall be used only for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house and for no other purpose including business, commercial or industrial purposes.

Reason: To prevent the building from being used for commercial purposes to the detrimental of the locality.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to the removal of Condition 4.

b. **CB/13/02256/SCO – Eyeworth Lodge Farm, Northfield Road, Eyeworth**

EIA Scoping Opinion: erection of 4 broiler rearing units and associated feed bins, hard standing and access.

Although this site is beyond Biggleswade boundary, Town Council are invited to comment due to the size of the development.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise no comment.

c. **CB/13/01969/RM – Land South of Potton Road, Biggleswade**

Reserved Matters of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access for the erection of 66 dwellings at Blocks 35 & 41 pursuant to Outline consent reference MB/03/01205/OUT dated 13/11/2006 for Residential development of approximately 1450 dwellings, construction of Eastern relief road, Local Centre, primary school, public open space, structural landscaping, infrastructure including surface water balancing facilities and associated works. Demolition of 128 Potton Road to facilitate vehicular access. (All matters reserved except means of access) – Granted 13 November 2006

This application was considered by Town Council on 9 July when:

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council **OBJECT** to this application as it is an overdevelopment of the area. Town Council requests that the relief road is high priority as well as S106 monies are applied for the buses to service the area.

The following reply has been received from Central Bedfordshire Planning Officer:

The Town Council is fully entitled to object, of course. But the objection referred to overdevelopment at the site. This is an application for the approval of reserved matters (essentially, the detail). Consent was granted for 1450 units at the site with the 03/1205 consent and the number of units at the wider site is not part of the current application. I wonder if you might be able to reconsider the Council's comments on this application. Naturally, if you would like to maintain the objection, you are entitled to do so

A vote was taken for Town Council maintaining the objection raised on 9 July:

In favour: 6 Against: 3 Cllr T Woodward abstained – therefore:

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council maintain the **OBJECTION raised** on 9 July.

- d. **CB/13/02549/DEM – London Road Trading Estate, London Road, Biggleswade**
Demolition Determination: demolition of three retail units

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

9. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a. **Central Bedfordshire Equality and Diversity Strategy 2013-2016 Consultation document**

Members will have already received this document electronically and are asked to comment no later than Wednesday 2 October 2013.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

- b. **Purchase of Rose Lane Car Park by Biggleswade Town Council**

Following the Town Council meeting 23rd July 2013,(confidential items), where Council **resolved** to make an offer of £605,000 for the purchase of the freehold Rose Lane car park; Town Council has received confirmation of acceptance of the offer of £605,000 for the purchase of Rose Lane Car Park.

A copy of the details of the acceptance and sale, a copy of the confirmation from the Town Council solicitor that they have been instructed to act and a summary of the events leading up to the purchase are attached to this agenda.

Cllr T Woodward said that this has been a long time coming. Cllr Woodward thanked the Town Clerk for all his hard work and negotiating. This purchase helps Town Council take control over parking in the town. Congratulations on a job well done.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that she seconded all round with Cllr Woodward's comments. Hopefully the public will understand why there were so many 'Pink Paper' items. The offer of £605K comprises of £500k from the Public Works Loan Board, and part of the conditions of the loan is that all the history of the purchase is made public. At the next meeting in 2 weeks, a formal decision will be made to apply for the loan, so this is formal Consultation period at the moment.

Cllr Mrs W Smith said that she agreed exactly with Cllr Woodward and Cllr Russell's comments. Congratulations to the Town Clerk. The paperwork is particularly comprehensive and understandable.

- c. **Consultation on Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

Members received the link www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations to access the above Consultation document and were asked to comment before 23 October.

Cllr B Briars said that there are still problems at Grasmere with drainage, it should have been cleared by now, but this still hasn't happened. Anglian Water should be involved in clearing the area as this is a flood plain.

The Town Clerk said it could be the Internal Drainage Board.

Cllr Mrs M Russell raised some concerns with some of the information in the document; Cllr Mrs M Russell said we need more detail on the issues effecting Biggleswade, we need to know mitigation measures.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk invite a speaker to attend a Town Council meeting to give more detail on the issues effecting Biggleswade.

d. Shortmead Street/Sun Street roundabout

CBC has informed Town Council that work on the above roundabout is due to commence in September 2013.

A copy of the original plan (a) and the current plan (b) was on display in the Chamber for viewing.

It was **RESOLVED** that whilst Town Council welcomes the roundabout, the Town Clerk writes to CBC with the following observations:

1. Car parking restrictions be imposed from the entrance to Dan Albone car park, Shortmead street up to the roundabout.
2. Can parking restrictions be imposed from the roundabout up Sun Street to the entrance to the industrial units, i.e. Biggleswade Hire and Buy.
3. The crossing point on the South of the roundabout on Shortmead Street, can this be removed, bearing in mind that an application has been made for joint funding for a zebra crossing in Shortmead Street.

Town Council appreciates that the parking restrictions will require a T.R.O. to introduce however, can this be considered as an addition to the improvements.

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Members' Customer Service Bulletin for period 24/0/602013 to 21/07/2013

A copy of the above document is available for Members to view in the Town Council office.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

b. Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Lawrence Road, Biggleswade

CBC has notified Town Council of proposed temporary road closure of Lawrence Road, Biggleswade from 2 to 4 September, to enable a new water supply to be installed safely.

A copy was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

c. Outcome of CBC determined planning applications.

A copy was attached to the agenda. The Cllrs thanked the staff for producing the report.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

d. Appointment of Apprentice Administrator

Michaella Beckwith has been appointed to the position of Apprentice Administrator and started in post on 5th August. Michaella will be joining the Business Administration Programme (Level 3) on day release at Bedford College commencing in September.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

e. Site at 111 The Rowland's, Biggleswade – CB/13/00594

The above planning application was considered by Town Council on 26 March 2013 and raised no objection. CBC refused permission in May 2013.

The applicant has now lodged an appeal.

A copy was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

f. **Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Shortmead Street & Sun Street, Biggleswade**

CBC has notified Town Council of a proposed Temporary Road Closure, from 19 August to 20 September, at Shortmead Street and Sun Street to enable the construction of a new roundabout to be carried out in safety.

A copy was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

g. **Customer Service Bulletin for period 08/07/2013 to 04/08/2013**

A copy of the above is available in Town Council office for Members to view.

It was **RESOLVED** that this be noted.

11. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

MOP 1 said that he had read that the Police Station is potentially closing and asked Members to ensure this is on the next agenda and to pursue with the Police Commissioner.

12. **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 **13a. Salaries**

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.