

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 APRIL 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 M North, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr S Watkins,
Cllr Ms S Mulchrone, Cllr Mrs M Russell, Cllr D Albone, Cllr B Briars, Cllr B Rix, Cllr Mrs W Smith
Rob McGregor - Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Helen Randall – PSCO
Members of the public – 5

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr R Skinner and Cllr T Woodward.

Mrs H Ramsay said that Cllr R Skinner thanked everyone for their good wishes and that he is continuing with the Chemotherapy.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – there were no Disclosable Pecuniary interests declared.
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr Mrs H Ramsay declared an interest in items 10d and 12a.

Cllr D Albone declared an interest in item 10j

Cllr I Bond declared an interest in item 12b

Cllrs Mrs M Russell, Mrs W Smith and B Rix registered an interest in item 12a.

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Town Mayor's announcements.

4. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr B Briars asked if Town Council has heard from CBC about the lowering of the streetlights in London Road.

The Town Clerk said that Town Council hasn't heard any thing and he would chase CBC.

Cllr G Wilson asked if anything was being done about cars parking in Dells Lane area and Dan Albone car park on the pavement.

The Town Clerk replied that Sgt Gary Kidd had said that he would look at parking on the pavement.

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A member of the public (MOP 1) asked if when Members are considering item 12a (Rural Match Funding) , some funding could be used to alleviate parking problems at Dells Lane, also to help with the bus service reduction and asked for an update from the Police about parking issues.

PCSO Helen Randall replied that the Police had issued parking tickets on the Pride in Day.

MOP 1 said that it still needs improving.

MOP 1 said that he is disappointed that the New Inn planning application has been passed, as this area is a public right of way.

Cllr Mrs M Russell said that the planning application that has been passed is not the original application.

Cllr I Bond said that the structures have been removed from the application.

6 BEDFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PCSO Helen Randall ran through the Crime and Detections figures and compared to the same period last year, which showed:

	Recorded Crime	Detections
Violence against the Person	-18.5%	+12.9%
Sexual Offences	+33.3%	-100%
Robbery	+0.0%	-25%
Domestic Burglary	+15.6%	-42.9%
Burglary other	-29.7%	+300%
Vehicle Crime	-16.7%	+157.1%
Other Theft	-25.0%	+7.5%
Fraud and Forgery	-42.9%	-60.0%
Criminal Damage	-30.3%	-43.5%
Drugs	-52.4%	-29.4%
Other Notifiable Offences	+175.0%	+100%
TOTAL	-22.7%	+6.6%

Domestic burglary: The Police have recently managed to arrest a known nominal that is suspected to be involved in a number of burglaries in the area.

There are operations continuing, including warrants for handling stolen goods.

Robbery: Males arrested suspected to be involved in the recent robberies in the area and are on bail.

Drugs: The Police recently conducted a drug warrant at a site along ALBONE WAY, BIGGLESWADE suspected factory, although no drugs were found the site was believed to be in the early stages of being prepared for a drugs factory, this was a pro-active operation.

There has been a recent arrest of a well known male who frequents in the bus stop MARKET SQUARE, BIGGLESWADE, this is hopefully helping us put a case together to combat ASB in the MARKET SQUARE, BIGGLESWADE.

Initiatives: Over the last 12 months the Local Policing Crime Reduction Team have held a number of events in the town offering Crime Prevention advice, offering a free service to secure number plates and protect Catalytic Convertors. The Police were partners in the recent successful Pride in Biggleswade Day and have worked well with the Community Safety Group who have been invaluable this year. Neighbourhood Watch has also received support recently and it is hoped to build on that in the months to come.

The Police have attended and assisted with a number of Community Engagement events including Biggleswade Gala, Christmas Lights and School Fete's.

The PCSO went on to say that there have been a number of robberies in the area of the Train Station. The CCTV really helped with the arrest of the known male in the Market Square.

With regards to Dells Lane parking, parking tickets have been issued but can only be issued if doing anything wrong, such as parking on double yellow lines.

Cllr G Wilson asked how the Police had come to the figures for the Drugs item on the Crime figures,

The PCSO it could relate to possession or warrants.

Cllr G Wilson with regards to parking in Dells Lane, could a Fire Engine or Ambulance get through.

The PCSO replied that she is satisfied that buses can get through, if there were an obstruction the Police would remove the vehicles.

Cllr G Wilson asked if anything is going to be done about the cars parked going towards the Station.

The PCSO said that they would attend if called.

Cllr Ms S Mulchrone said that there are lots of robberies at the Station that are not reported, people are being beaten up by hoodies, just for fun, it is more prolific than the crime figures shown.

The PCSO replied that there had been no more calls since recent arrests.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay asked if these crimes could be reported to CrimeStoppers Anonymous.

The PCSO said yes they could report to CrimeStoppers.

Cllr B Rix said that the Neighbourhood Team work on a re-active basis. It has been reported to him that there are disturbances in Eagle Farm Road recreation ground between 9 – 11pm, this is very annoying for the residents. He said that he would raise this issue again.

The PCSO said that the Police are aware of the problems at Eagle Farm Road, mostly the disturbances are after the PCSO's shifts have finished, but the Specials, who start later, also look at reported incidents.

Cllr B Rix said that re-active is ok, but the Police need to be pro-active and to include these three areas:

1. Anti-social behaviour and threatening behaviour (with a particular focus later at night around the station, for which we heard reports from other Councillors of some problems)
2. Late night Anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Eagle Farm Road, particularly on the playing field and open space opposite Stratton School.
3. Inconsiderate and obstructive parking particularly at the top of Dells Lane (though also in other parts of the town)

The PCSO replied that the Police are working with Neighbourhood Watch on new builds, but the Police need to work with other agencies.

Cllr Mrs W Smith said that if the PCSO's shift finishes at 10 or 11pm, someone needs to be on patrol at Eagle Farm Road and at the Station, we need some response.

7. INVITED SPEAKERS

8. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 April 2013 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Cllr B Briars said that he asked that the following be added onto the minutes 'now that the exempt item from the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting of 12 March 2013 has been approved, it can go into the public domain'

9. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 April 2013 –there were no matters arising.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/13/01020/FULL – Field North of Sheep Walk, Langford Road, Biggleswade**
Continued uses and conditions of land to sports pitches granted from application MB/08/00778/FULL for a further 5 years.

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/13/01101/NMA- Land South of Potton Road, Biggleswade**
Non Material Amendment: to planning permission CB/12/02835RM insertion of door to rear elevation of house type FB1.

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

- c. **CB/13/01108/LB – 36 High Street, Biggleswade - Retrospective**
Listed Building: installation of: 2 LED Light Lines to existing fascia signage on Victoria Place elevation 3 LED Light Lines behind glazing to window arches, retention of 5 spot lights up lighting wall, retention of existing light box.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council raise a **STRONG OBJECTION** to this application.

- d. **CB/13/01217/FULL – 46 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade**
Remove existing conservatory & garage & erect single storey extension for front & rear.

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/13/01141/FULL – 80 Holme Crescent, Biggleswade**
Erect of PVCu conservatory 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.

- f. **CB/13/01126/FULL – 60 Beech Avenue, Biggleswade**
Rear single storey extension to create additional lounge area and playroom, internal alterations to create ground floor bedroom.

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/13/01130/FULL – 59 Bunyan Road, 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.

- h. **CB/13/01036/FULL – 6 Sage Close, Biggleswade**
Erection of 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.

i. **CB/13/01260/FULL – 9 Kayser Court, Biggleswade**

Single storey rear and two storey side extension, detached garage removed

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council object to this application as the removal of the garage would cause parking problems in the vicinity.

j. **CB/13/00878/FULL – Land to the front of ‘Greenways’, Drove Road, Biggleswade**

Change of use from Highways land to private garden land.

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

k. **CB/13/01319/FULL – 203 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade**

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.

11. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

For members to receive and adopt the following accounts:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 March 2013
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure.
- iii. Current Bank Account, receipts and payments to 31 March 2013

This paperwork will be handed out at the Council meeting.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay said that as Councillors had not had time to read the Accounts, these would be discussed at the first meeting in June.

12. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **LTP Rural Match Fund & Bidding Guidelines**

The attached paperwork forms a guide to Town and Parish Councils seeking to secure a contribution from Central Bedfordshire Council towards small scale transport schemes. It contains a summary of the nature of the funding available, the process through which Councils can bid for the funding, and an application form to be completed and returned to Central Bedfordshire Council by 1 August 2013.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out a long term framework for investment in transport across Central Bedfordshire. It establishes a strategic approach through which to deal with key transport issues, a series of objectives, and broad areas of intervention through which schemes will be identified and improvements made to the transport network.

The rural match fund is a way through which local town and parishes councils can fund transport schemes in their areas with the assistance of match funding from Central Bedfordshire Council.

The upper limit of funding of which town and parish councils can bid for is £375,000. However the ethos of the fund is to provide contributions towards a number of small scale improvements which would not otherwise be funded through the LATP Scheme Prioritisation Process. As a consequence applicants are encouraged to limit their applications to a maximum of £50,000 per scheme.

Members were asked to consider suitable schemes for funding.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council submit a bid for funding of 2 TRO's. A meeting to be arranged with Nick Chapman to discuss Councils options Zebra Crossings and other issues; that the Town Council look at alternative funding.

b. Biggleswade Green Wheel

For Members to consider routing the Biggleswade Green Wheel through Fairfield Sports Ground.

Option 1: To consider putting in a surface path between the main gates and the pedestrian gate; a path constructed on top of the existing ground surface with minimal excavation for edging pegs.

Option 2: To make use of the main gateway with appropriate bollards
A copy of these proposals was attached to the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council approve **Option 1**.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning application outcomes

A report detailing the outcome of recent planning applications was attached to the agenda.

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

b. Proposed temporary road closure – Southill Road, Southill

CBC has notified Town Council of the above proposed temporary road closure to enable carriageway patching to be carried out in safety.

The closure is expected to take place for 11 days from 7 to 17 May between the hours of 0900 – 1530hrs. Access may be allowed from time to time according to local signing.

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

c. Members' Customer Service Bulletin

As supplied by CBC, a copy of the Members' Customer Service Bulletin for the period 11 March 2013 to 7 April 2013 is available in Town Council offices for viewing

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

d. Trainee Groundsperson Appointment

Members are advised that Oliver Church has been appointed to the position of Trainee Groundsperson and commenced duties on 16th April 2013. Oliver will be attending Shuttleworth College to complete a national apprenticeship in Horticulture (level 2).

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

e. Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Various, Biggleswade & Dunton

CBC/Amey has notified Town Council that they have received a request for a Temporary Road Closure at the above locations to enable resurfacing works to be carried out in safety.

The roads affected are: Maple Close, Mulberry Close, Jubilee Gardens, Ashley Gardens, Walnut Close, Holly Close & Sycamore Close, Biggleswade and Horseshoe Close, Dunton.

Up to two closures for one day each per road during the period from 1 to 30 June between the hours of 0730 and 1800hrs.

A copy was attached to the agenda.

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

At 8.07pm Cllr Mrs W Smith left the Chamber,

14. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

MOP 1 said that he is delighted with the TRO orders, Town Council should let the local press know, it shows that Town Council listens to residents.

He said he would like to query the costings of £25k for a zebra crossing and £10k for a mini roundabout, and asked that CBC give a breakdown of costings.

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay said that Town Council will ask Nick Chapman for a breakdown.

15. **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.

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.