

AMENDED MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE

Present:

Cllr S Watkins – Chairman
Cllr G Wilson
Cllr M North
Cllr Mrs M Russell
Cllr I Bond
Cllr P Biernis (Arrived at 7:12)
Cllr B Briars
Cllr D Albone

Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk
Mr M Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk
Miss M Beckwith – Minute Taker

6 Members of the public (MOP)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from;
Cllr B Rix
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence
Cllr D Lawrence
Cllr Mrs W Smith

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Non-pecuniary interest was raised by Cllr B Briars regarding item 9c

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Police and Crime Commissioner will be attending the Council meeting on the 24th March 2015 to discuss the increase in staff and costs.

4. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

MOP 1 – Regarding the minutes from the previous Council meeting, nothing has been published online as of yet.

Cllr S Watkins – Will speak to the Mayor.

MOP 2 – Regarding the minutes and recommendations, it states that quotes will be obtained from external companies. Why not consider employing own staff to carry the parking management out?
Cllr Mrs M Russell – We already outsource our parking management and have been using SMART parking for quite some time now. They were offered the chance to tender for the contract.

6. INVITED SPEAKERS

None

7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 February 2015 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Cllr G Wilson – Item 6, financial accounts for the last two years were requested and not the crime figures.

- b. Members received the recommendations of the Town Centre Management Committee meeting held on 17 February 2015 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that quote A is accepted for the works to Rose Lane, Mill Lane and St Andrews Street Car parks at a total cost of £99,260.00 + VAT.

It was **RESOLVED** that quote B is accepted for the management of Town Council car parks; Signage initial year £1,650.00 + VAT; Management fee £13,000.00 + VAT.

Regarding item 6c Biggleswade Saturday Market, on the recommendations from the Town Centre Management Committee, although approved, Cllr P Biernis, Cllr D Albone and Cllr B Briars all objected and asked for their votes to be recorded.

It was **RESOLVED** to approach CBC for a TRO for Hitchin Street and that the Town Clerk and the Market Superintendent explore the revised layouts.

It was **RESOLVED** that the issues raised to be passed to Paul Mason at CBC, were reference to a letter from a resident of London Road regarding commuter parking, are to be added to the consultation; and that the Town Clerk write to the resident to explain the parking strategy and where we are with it.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposals to look at new way finding in the Market Square are taken forward, that the Chairman of TCM and the Town Clerk meet with Adam Turney and take any recommendations back to the next meeting of TCM.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council write to the Lord of the Manor and ask for a meeting to discuss the long term future of Rose Lane car park.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to CBC to support the proposals to deal with Commuter parking, but to express concern at the negative impact of pursuing a single line for parking in Biggleswade rather than the overall strategy which they have wanted in the past.

8. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr B Briars – Regarding the parking on verges, has there been any response?

There has yet to be a response although they will get back in due course and the Town Clerk will follow it up.

Cllr G Wilson – Can confirm that the Police financial figures accounts will be sent over. The Town Clerk has been given an online link to view the accounts.

Cllr B Briars – Regarding item 8a on the minutes from 10th February, calling a planning application in has to be done within 21 days. This hasn't been put on the agenda as requested. Similar to this, the retail park item was not put on the agenda.

Mr R McGregor – They will be included in the next agenda. With regards to the retail park, this has already been officially named.

Cllr B Briars – The council stand no chance as there is only 21 days to call an application in.

Mr R McGregor – There is a meeting on the 25th February 2015 with planning, this will be one of the items put forward to them.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. **CB/15/00032/FULL – 20 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade**
Erection of two one bedroom apartments.

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/14/04588/FULL – Roadside Farm, 122 Potton Road**

Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of six dwellings and associated works.

This planning application previously went before Council on 16/12/2014 where there were no objections raised.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to the Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of six dwellings and associated works.

c. **CB/15/00248/DEM – The Lawns Nursery School, The Baulk**

Demolition Notification: Disconnect existing utilities to the building and cap the water supply and demolish the vacant single storey building. Remove resultant materials from site.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to disconnect existing utilities to the building and cap the water supply and demolish the vacant single storey building. And to remove resultant materials from site.

d. **CB/15/00452/ADV – Homebase Ltd, London Road Trading Estate, London Road**

Advertisement: 3 No. internally illuminated replacement skins to 3 existing flex face boxes (two wall mounted & one totem).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to 3 No. internally illuminated replacement skins to 3 existing flex face boxes (two wall mounted & one totem).

e. **CB/15/00119/ADV – 41 High Street**

Advertisement: 1 internally illuminated folded aluminium fascia and 1 internally illuminated folded aluminium projecting sign.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise an objection to the 1 internally illuminated folded aluminium fascia and 1 internally illuminated folded aluminium projecting sign, on the basis of the internal illumination.

f. **CB/15/00467/FULL – Land opposite 15 Blackburn Way**

Erection of new sub station

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to erection of new sub station.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

a. **Financial Administration**

Members **received and adopted** the accounts for 31st January 2015.

b. **Internal Audit Report 2014 – 15 (Interim Update)**

Cllr M North – The audit was clean which reflects well on the administration staff.
Cllr Mrs M Russell – Also liked to congratulate the administration staff on their effort.

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Bedfordshire Constabulary**

Members **received and noted** the Crime Figures from Bedfordshire Police.

b. **Biggleswade Joint Committee – Minutes**

Members received the minutes of Biggleswade Joint Committee.

Cllr Mrs M Russell – Believes that item 12 regarding London Road crossing refers to the second crossing where it mentions implementation in 2016.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Planning Application Outcomes

Members **received and noted** the outcome report detailing recent planning applications.

b. Grant Thank You

It was **noted** that the Mayflower Social Club and Keech Cottage sent letters of thanks to the council regarding the grants donated to them.

c. Bedfordshire Highways Annual Report 2013 – 2014

Members **received and noted** the copy of Bedfordshire Highways report for 2013 – 14

13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

MOP 1 – Proposed that Facebook should be used to update the public on what was discussed at the meeting.

Cllr Mrs M Russell – This is not possible until the recommendations are approved but watch this space now that the decisions have been made.

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.

Agenda Item (15a) Minutes of meetings

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.