

MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2015
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

Present:

Cllr Mrs H Ramsay (Chair)
Cllr D Albone (Vice Chair)
Cllr P Biernis
Cllr M Foster
Cllr F Foster
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr G Wilson
Cllr M North
Cllr I Bond
Cllr Ms B Kerfoot
Cllr B Briars

Mr R McGregor – Town Clerk
Mrs J Durn – Minute Taker

5 Members of Public (MOP)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mrs M Russell
Cllr B Rix

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item:
None
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item
Item 9c Cllr B Briars
Item 9c Cllr Ms R Kerfoot

3. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements

4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no questions from members of the public

5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

There were no invited speakers

6. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

There were no members' questions

7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 July 2015 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **CB/15/02645/FULL – 16 Drove Road, Biggleswade**

Single storey rear/side extension.

A previous application was made for the above address – CB/15/01923/FULL which was discussed at the Council Meeting on the 9th June 2015. (CBC granted 24.06.15.)

Single storey rear extension (including demolition of existing single storey 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.

b. **CB/15/02672/VOC – 5 Montgomery Way, Land opposite to Unit 3 and 4 to 5, Biggleswade**

Variation of Condition to planning permission CB/14/04192/FULL (new building for use as Builders Merchant) vary condition 14 (approved plans) to amend site layout.

A previous application was made for the above address – CB/14/04192/FULL which was discussed at the Council Meeting held on 11th November 2014. (CBC granted 27.01.15.)

Erection of new building for use as Builders Merchant (sui Generis) for the display, sales and storage of building materials, plant and tool hire, including outside display and storage with associated servicing arrangements, car parking, landscaping and associated works.

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

c. **CB/15/02613/FULL - The Lawns Nursery School, The Baulk, Biggleswade**

Temporary storage/site compound used by Highways for up to 12 months.

Members asked the Town Clerk to obtain clarification of the following points of concern: The apparent encroachment of the pathway causing obstruction for access. Safe and adequate storage of flammable liquid. The installation of a high security fence. The unnecessary removal of trees on the site. Heavy plant moving around on a site which is in close proximity to schools.

The members felt that there would be no objection if this site is to be used for office use and storage of materials only. However, if it is intended for any other purpose such as access of heavy plant, removal of trees, and encroaching on the pathway, then objections will be raised.

d. **CB/15/02768/FULL – 33 Osprey Road, Biggleswade**

Single storey front extension.

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

10. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **BATP County Committee Election**

The Chair referred to the attached letter and nomination form confirming details of the election process to fill the 21 vacancies on our County Committee which will arise at the end of the current representatives terms of office in October 2015.

Would any interested Councillor's please ensure that all completed nomination papers are with us by latest Tuesday **22nd September 2015**.

b. **Town and Parish Council Conference – 23 September 2015**

Central Bedfordshire Council would like to invite two representatives from Biggleswade Town Council to attend the next Town and Parish Council Conference, which will take place on the evening of 23 September at Priory House, Chicksands between 6.00pm and 9.00pm. Tea, coffee and a light buffet will be available from 5.30pm.

This event will focus on a single subject – planning.

Cllr North and Cllr M Foster expressed an interest in attending this event. The Town Clerk said that this may not be limited to two people and if anyone else is interested in attending please respond no later than Tuesday 9 September 2016.

c. The White Hart Car Park Closure for Charitable Event

The members have no objection in principle to this request, but in order to cause minimum disruption to the market trade they would like the event to start from 1pm onwards. They would also prefer the wearing of more appropriate clothing such as tee-shirts as this would be more suitable for a family event.

d. Central Bedfordshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule Public Consultation

Following the Town Council meeting 28th July 2015 where Council made the following resolution; It was **RESOLVED** that a member of the planning department should be invited along to talk about the CIL and how it will impact on Biggleswade and how it will fall into the neighbourhood plan.

The following response has been received;

Thank you for your correspondence, unfortunately we do not currently have the resource to attend an evening meeting but would be happy to respond to any queries you have via email.

Arlesey Town Council considered the consultation at a Town Council meeting on the 4th August 2015, (report attached), Arlesey Town Council are keen to advise other Councils in the Band C areas of the flaw in the viability calculations and ask if they will consider responding to the consultation in a similar way to Arlesey Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that Biggleswade Town Council endorse Arlesey Town Council's considerations and object to Central Bedfordshire Council's proposals on the grounds that they have not provided a response to our previous questions, therefore having no understanding of the reasons behind this document and so have been unable to hold a reasonable debate. Central Bedfordshire Councillors should be copied on this correspondence.

e. Police and Crime Plan 2015

Members are asked for comments on the Police and Crime Plan 2015, which sets out the priorities for Bedfordshire Police and community safety in the county. The new Plan includes our continued priorities of building confident communities and protecting frontline policing, as well as renewed focus on emerging issues like hate crime, CSE and Cybercrime, together with tackling the underlying causes of crime. (Summary Attached, full version sent electronically).

Cllr D Strachan felt that this plan did not give enough detail regarding any specifics such as burglary and shoplifting. Cllr M Foster thought it was acceptable as an overall view of current police priorities.

The Chair asked that any comments be passed to Cllr G Wilson by Friday 14 August. Cllr Wilson will then pass these on to the PCC.

f. Traveller encampment – Dan Albone Car Park

The Town Clerk reported that papers were drawn up for the removal of the Travellers, but prior to these papers being served by the Bailiff, the Travellers moved on with no cost to the Town Council.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Langford and Biggleswade Wind Farm Community Fund

Cllr North and Cllr Bond attended a meeting concerning Langford and Biggleswade Wind Farm Community Funding. The attached statement of the criteria for assessment of project proposals, and a breakdown of the income and expenditure to date and future commitments were discussed.

Cllr North reported that it was clear that many of the projects had gone to Langford and it is therefore important that we increase our publicity in order to promote the availability of the funding. One of the Langford projects has since been deferred which leaves an available amount in excess of £10K. It is therefore important to publicise this information by bulletin, Facebook etc. in order to make people aware of the criteria and availability.

b. River Safety at the weir by Biggleswade Mill - Update

Following the Town Council meeting 28th July 2015, where the Town Council made the following resolution; It was **RESOLVED** that the council write to the Environment Agency in a few months time to see what is happening regarding the weir at Biggleswade Mill. It was also **RESOLVED** that a speaker is invited to a future council meeting.

The Town Clerk contacted the Environment Agency to invite them to a meeting of the Town Council and received the following response;

Thanks for your email. Have you seen the fact sheet that we have pulled together? This gives detail on where we are with the project and what we are looking to do.

We are still at a very early stage of the project and at this point don't have any more information.

The Town Clerk asked if the Environment Agency would confirm attendance when they do have further information, no response has been received.

No further action is required at this time.

c. Central Bedfordshire Council Footpath Orders – Footpaths 39 and 58 - Update

Following the Town Council meeting 14th July 2015, where Members asked for clarification of the reasons for these orders. Cllr B Rix asked if it is possible to look at joining the footpath from point A to footpath 49.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire Council with these comments

The Following response has been received;

The orders were undertaken on behalf of the landowners and the users/general public. The orders have taken the parts of the routes that previously shared their alignment with articulated vehicles to an alignment free of such traffic. The landowner is also able to develop areas once crossed by the rights of way.

Secondly, there are no plans to join up Footpath No.49 with Bridleway 58. It is simply good form to have the same start and finish points before and after the diversion has taken place.

No further action is required at this time.

d. Biggleswade Joint Committee

For members to receive the draft minutes of the Biggleswade Joint Committee, meeting held on the 27th July 2015.

Cllr D Strachan asked if more background information could be included in the Joint Committee Minutes in order to give members a better understanding of the Stratton Street Railway Bridge situation.

He understood that since these Minutes were taken, a Working Party has been formed and a meeting held. Cllr M Foster said that the results of this meeting are now in the public domain and have been published on the CBC website. The Working Party discussed the proposed traffic flow, the diversion routes and the

impact of the disruption of the utility services. Weight restrictions and adequate signage will all be in place. We have been assured that this project will be well planned and phased-in sensitively in order to avoid as much disruption during the four month construction period as possible.

Central Bedfordshire Council will be writing to all residents and business in the Town and the CBC website will have regular updates.

Councillors asked for sight of the proposed plans and the Town Clerk will ask BJC Chairman if these can be made available for this purpose. The Town Clerk will also ask the BJC Chairman if copies of the agendas can be made available to BTC Cllrs prior to future BJC meetings.

12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

MOP1 whether there would be additional areas made available for green waste following the lengthy closure of the Biggleswade Tidy Tip, other than those well out of the area which were not possible for people to travel to. The Town Clerk said that negotiations are taking place at the moment to provide temporary provision at weekends only in the Dan Albone Car Park. However, this negotiation is proving somewhat lengthy due to legal restrictions on Waste Management. Central Bedfordshire have provided manned vehicles at Chicksands. These are signposted from the road.

MOP2 asked if the bad pothole situation on Palace Street could be addressed. It would also be beneficial if a white line could be painted on the bend of Station Road as drivers are unaware that this is a one-way system.

The Town Clerk said this would have to be included in works already allocated for the area as it is too labour-intensive for a one-off job.

13. 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 ()

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

There were no exempt items to discuss.