

**MINUTES OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
13 JANUARY 2015 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE**

Present:

Cllr M North (Chairman)	Rob McGregor – Town Clerk
Cllr D Albone	Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr I Bond	Angela Thomas – Meeting Clerk
Cllr Mrs M Russell	

Also present: Cllr P Biernis, Cllr B Briars and Cllr G Wilson

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Mrs. W Smith
Cllr B Rix
Cllr T Woodward
Cllr S Watkins

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None declared.
- (b) Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Members received and approved the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on the 18th November 2014.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Grants/Donations

- i. For members to consider applications for Community Grants. A schedule and copies of grant applications were circulated with this Agenda.

Members considered the applications for Community Grants and the results are as follows:

Organisation	Amount Requested £	2014 Grant £	2015 Grant Agreed £	Comments	Power
Biggleswade Sports	Grateful for any amount	410.00	410.00		s137
Crab Lane Embankment	50.00	50.00	50.00	Cllr Mrs M Russell agreed to this amount. However, feels that the Town Council should take over in the future	s137

Biggleswade First Aid Club	370.00	360.00	370.00	Agreed	s137
Mid Beds CAB	1,000.00	Nil	200.00	Grants received from CBC	s137
Biggleswade Army Cadets	1,200.00	450.00	900.00		LGMP s19
Biggleswade History Society	600.00	600.00	600.00		s137
Link a Ride	Grateful for any amount	500.00	500.00		LGRA sect 27
Biggles FM	1,850.00	500.00	900.00		s137
Biggleswade Town Cricket	2,000.00	500.00	900.00		s137
Abbotsbury	400.00	250.00	400.00		s137
Keech Hospice	500.00	500.00	500.00		s137
Mayflower Social Club	300.00	200.00	300.00		s137
Biggleswade Talking Paper	400.00	350.00	400.00		s137
New Horizon Club	250.00	200.00	250.00		s137
Biggleswade Sea Cadets	1,000.00	450.00	900.00		s137
The Avenue for Autism	350.00	300.00	350.00		s137
Trinity Methodist Church	Grateful for any amount	1,000.00	500.00		s137
Biggleswade Girl Guides "District"	300.00	250.00	350.00		s137
2 nd Biggleswade Rainbow Guides	250.00	Nil	Nil	The Committee agreed that monies go direct to "District" for them to allocate	s137
Biggleswade Youth FC	350.00	250.00	350.00		s137
Eyeworth Village Hall	2,000.00	Nil	Nil	The Committee agreed this did not come within our area	LGA 1972 s177
			TOTAL	9,130	

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the 2015 Grant allocation be put forward to the next Council Meeting for approval.

- ii. Biggleswade Town Cricket Club are asking Council to sponsor match balls as in previous years at a cost of £10 per game. Member's views on this matter would be appreciated.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to sponsor five match balls at a cost of £10 per game.

- iii. Bedford College have asked if the Town Council would once again sponsor one of the student awards for the 2015 event which will take place on Thursday 5th March 2015 at Bedford Corn Exchange. A key part of the event is the sponsorship awards by local businesses and organisations and each student nominated for an award will receive a gift voucher or prize.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to allocate £50 to sponsor a student awards.

b. Fees for 2015/2016

A copy of the current fees were attached to this agenda and members were asked to consider the fees for 2015 – 2016.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** not to make any amendments to the fees 2015/2016 apart from increasing the following:

Benches:	£750.00	(was £535.00)
Benches with Plaque:	£820.00	(was £605.00)

c. Budgets

To consider budgets for 2015 – 2016. Paperwork will be handed out at the meeting for Member to consider.

Cllr M North – since the original budget papers have been circulated, we have received confirmation of the council tax base for 2015/16. This shows an increase in band D equivalent properties of 182 or 3.20%. Taking advantage of this and applying an increase in band D equivalent precept of 1.98, the precept recommended has been increased by £29,500 from the preliminary proposals (a total increase of £34,967 or 5.24% over 2014/15).

Following a review this morning, the following budgets have been increased; Admin, car park rates, play equipment, litter bins, central services, outside services, grants and an increased rolling capital fund.

Cllr Mrs M Russell – I had a long conversation with the Town Clerk earlier today regarding budgets, I proposed to recommend the budget to Council subject to an amendment on 4039/212 play equipment maintenance, reducing the budget by £1,000 and placing the £1,000 in 4061/108 grants.

Members **RECOMMENDED** subject to the amendment that the draft budget goes forward to Town Council with a precept of £702,469, a 1.98% increase in Band D equivalent to £119.59 a year.

d. Model Financial Regulations – 3rd Draft

Members were asked to consider the above document which was attached to this agenda.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that the Draft Financial regulations go forward to the Town Council for approval.

7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.