



MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2019
AT BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT

Cllr M North
Cllr D Albone
Cllr G Fage
Cllr L Fage
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr M Russell
Cllr D Strachan
Cllr R Pullinger
Cllr C Thomas
Cllr M Knight
Cllr K Brown
Cllr J Woodhead

Mr R McGregor, Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mr M Thorn, Deputy Town Clerk, Biggleswade Town Council
Mrs J Durn, Meeting Administrator

Members of Public – 8 (including 2 Council staff)

A14/0501 1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Madeline Russell be elected to the office of Town Mayor for Biggleswade, for the year 2019/2020.

A14/0502 2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor, Cllr Madeline Russell signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

A14/0503 3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Frank Foster be elected to the office of Deputy Town Mayor for Biggleswade, for the year 2019/2020.

A14/0504 4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Frank Foster signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

A14/0505 5. MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES

It was **RESOLVED** that membership of Standing Committees is adopted as follows:

A14/0505.1 a. **Finance and General Purpose (F&GP):**

Cllr H Ramsay (Chair), Cllr D Albone (Vice Chair), Cllr F Foster, Cllr G Fage, Cllr M North.

A14/0505.2 b. **Public Land and Open Spaces (PLOS):**

Cllr F Foster (Chair), Cllr L Fage (Vice Chair), Cllr K Brown, Cllr M Foster, Cllr M Knight, Cllr M North, Cllr R Pullinger, Cllr C Thomas, Cllr M Russell.

A14/0505.3 c. **Town Centre Management (TCM):**

Cllr M North (Chair), Cllr G Fage (Vice Chair), Cllr D Albone, Cllr M Knight, Cllr I Bond, Cllr F Foster, Cllr H Ramsay, Cllr M Russell, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr R Pullinger, Cllr J Woodhead.

A14/0505.4 d. **Personnel:**

Cllr I Bond (Chair), Cllr C Thomas (Vice Chair), Cllr F Foster, Cllr M North, Cllr H Ramsay, Cllr M Russell.

A14/0505.5 e. **Appeals:**

Cllr D Albone (Chair), Cllr R Pullinger (Vice Chair), Cllr M Knight, Cllr D Strachan.

A14/0505.6 f. **For each Committee to appoint a “Chair”:**

Finance and General Purpose	-	Cllr H Ramsay
Public Land and Open Spaces	-	Cllr F Foster
Town Centre Management	-	Cllr M North
Personnel	-	Cllr I Bond
Appeals	-	Cllr D Albone

A14/0505.7 g. **For each Committee to appoint a “Vice Chair”:**

Finance and General Purpose	-	Cllr D Albone
Public Land and Open Spaces	-	Cllr L Fage
Town Centre Management	-	Cllr G Fage
Personnel	-	Cllr C Thomas
Appeals	-	Cllr R Pullinger

A14/0506 6. BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE

Cllrs H Ramsay, M Russell, F Foster, M North.

Cllr C Thomas and Cllr D Albone were appointed as substitutes.

A14/0507 7. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

It was **RESOLVED** that appointments to the following bodies be adopted:

- A14/0507.1 a. **Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils:**
3 Members - Cllrs Woodhead, C Thomas, M Knight.
- A14/0507.2 b. **Biggleswade Twinning Committee:**
1 Member – Cllr J Woodhead.
Substitute - Cllr D Albone.
- A14/0507.3 c. **Sir John Cotton Educational Foundation:**
1 Member - Cllr Woodhead.
- A14/0507.4 d. Cllr M Russell would like it noted that she is a Trustee of Sir John Cotton Educational Foundation and not a representative on behalf of Biggleswade Town Council.
- A14/0507.5 e. **Fen Reeves Meetings:**
1 Member as proxy voter - Cllr I Bond.
Substitute - Cllr H Ramsay.
- A14/0507.6 f. **Police Liaison:**
1 Member - Cllr D Strachan.
Substitute - Cllr L Fage.
- A14/0507.7 g. **Langford and Biggleswade Community fund Group:**
2 Members - Cllr H Ramsay, Cllr C Thomas.
- A14/0507.8 h. **Biggleswade Green Wheel Development Group:**
2 Members - Cllr I Bond, Cllr Pullinger, Cllr D Albone.

A14/0508 8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I Bond.

A14/0509 9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item: None
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item: None

A14/0510 10. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor had no announcements.

A14/0511 11. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

There were no questions from the Public.

A14/0512 12. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker.

A14/0513 13. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

Members received and approved the Minutes of a meeting of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 22 May 2018 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

A14/0514 14. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 22 May 2018.

A14/0515 15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A14/0515.1 a. **CB/19/01070/RM – Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application.

A14/0515.2 b. **CB/19/00928/FULL – 10 Beech Avenue, Biggleswade, SG180EG**
Two storey rear extension and first floor dormer to side.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning 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 dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A14/0515.3 c. **CB/19/00952/FULL – 49 St Johns Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0BT**

Single storey, rear infill extension, replacement of existing flat roof and insertion of roof lights.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning 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 dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

- A14/0515.4 d. **CB/19/01029/FULL – 40 Franklin Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8DX**
- Single storey side and rear extension with pitched roof.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning 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 dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.
- A14/0515.5 e. **CB/19/01119/FULL – 23 Eldon Way, Biggleswade, SG18 8NH**
- Removal and replacement of new roof cladding.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application.
- A14/0515.6 f. **CB/19/01119/FULL – 23 Eldon Way, Biggleswade, SG18 8NH**
- Removal and replacement of new roof cladding.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application.
- A14/0515.7 g. **CB/19/1116/FULL – 16 Eldon Way, Biggleswade SG18 8GL**
- Removal and replacement of new roof cladding
- The Town Council Raise **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application.
- A14/0515.8 h. **CB/19/01171/FULL – 43 Maunder Avenue, Biggleswade SG18 0LS**
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning 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 dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.
- A14/0515.9 i. **CB/19/01245/FULL –87 Lawrence Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8GL**
- Single storey rear extension
- It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this planning application.
- A14/0515.10 j. **CB/EN/19/0235 - Field opposite Biggleswade RUFC close to railway line**
- Planning enforcement case: Use of field for stationing of residential caravan.
- NOTED**

A14/0516 16. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A14/0516.1 a. **General Powers of Competence**

Members considered the recommendations in the report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

A14/0516.2 b. **Hackney Carriages - Biggleswade**

Members considered a request from CBC Licensing team to allow a Hackney Carriage Stand in Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise **NO OBJECTION** in principle and would be agreeable to going ahead on a trial basis. BTC would like to make it clear that the taxi rank should be sited in the Town Centre.

A14/0517 17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A14/0517.1 a. **Grants – Thank you letters**

Copies of thank you letters received for the Grants awarded in 2019 were **NOTED**.

A14/0517.2 b. **Notice of Decision for Works to Preserved Trees – TPO 5/2002**

This information was **NOTED**.

A14/0517.3 c. **Highways Rural Match Fund**

The Town Clerk was asked to write for additional information as Council are keen that this item is not pushed further back.

A14/0517. d. **Crime Statistics – April 2019**

Cllr D Strachan: Quite surprised by the increasing number of assaults recorded and would like a comparison of assaults in the previous year in order to investigate the reasons behind this increased number.

A14/0518 18. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

- Mr Bacon – Hackney Carriages: Just to point out that a Taxi is not a Hackney Carriage. The Chairman apologised and amended her wording.
- Mr Simon Sheridan: Would like to ask about the closure of the Stratton School Farm.

- Council are unable to comment on this question as it has not been put before them for discussion. Mr Sheridan will need to put this forward in writing to the Town Clerk for inclusion on a Council Agenda when it can then be formally be brought to Council and taken for discussion.
- Mr Bacon: The 20mph speed limit for Palace Street is still far too high. The No right Turn sign has been taken down and a 30 mph has replaced it. There should be an “Access only” sign.
- The pavement outside the hairdressers that was reported as a trip hazard has been replaced and is now even worse. Someone has tripped there again already.
- Dr Whittaker: Who will be the Council representative for the Splash Park? Dr Whittaker was requested to write formally to the Town Clerk for this to be taken on a Council Agenda for nominations.

A14/0519 19. 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 is discussed.

(No Exempt Items)

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.