



BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2019 **AT 10.00am AT THE OFFICES OF** **BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,** **4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE SG18 8DL**

PRESENT:

Biggleswade Town Council

Cllr H Ramsay, BTC
Cllr F Foster, BTC
Cllr M Russell, BTC

Central Bedfordshire Council

Cllr S Watkins, CBC (Chairman)
Cllr H Whitaker, CBC
Cllr T Stock, CBC

Officers

Mr R McGregor, BTC Town Clerk
Mr M Thorn, BTC Deputy Town Clerk
Ingrid Hooley, CBC Programme Enabling Manager
Sarah Hughes, CBC Community Engagement Manager

Jan Durn, BTC Meeting Administrator

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr I Bond, Cllr M Foster

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

Cllr M North

2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

To receive from members any declarations and the nature in relation to:

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

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

For members received and approved the Minutes of the BJC meeting held on 19th September 2019.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Matters Arising from the Minutes of BJC meeting held 19th September 2019.
Cllr M Russell – Item 9, Highways: Regarding the bus turn-around area at Eagle Farm Road, Cllr Russell reported that she has had a meeting with both the Highways Officer and CBC Cllr Dalgarno regarding authorising alternative arrangements. The matter is now being dealt with and we will be kept informed.

5. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of public at the meeting.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

At the Chairman's request item 10 of the Agenda – Community Safety update from Nick Masters, Police Representative, was taken at this point:

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY

Prior to the meeting Members received a Briefing Note from Lisa Scott, CBC's Safer Communities & Partnership Manager, and Steve Barrett, Safer Neighbourhood Manager.

Members were also pleased to receive an update from our guest Inspector Nick Masters, North Rural Team, Bedfordshire Police. Inspector Masters addressed issues received from KIN (Key Individual Networks) which are applicable to Biggleswade.

Inspector Masters updated the meeting on the role of the police response patrol which is included in the "Patrol Plan", and which also covers Hitchin Street, one of BTC main areas of concern.

We understand that Traders will be attending the Council Meeting next week. We will pass this information on to them as they have recently suffered numerous and continuous break-ins and vandalism.

Nick Masters left the meeting at 10.45am

The Meeting then continued with Agenda Item 7:

7. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Members received an update from Ingrid Hooley:

Government negotiations are unlikely to be completed by the 2024 deadline. However, commitment is good, and we are working on revised costings in order to be able to plan for revised timelines. Power supply continues to be a problem and we understand it will be a three-year build project to resolve this issue.

8. **FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND**

Ingrid Hooley read out a report provided by Sam Caldbeck, giving an update. Biggleswade has a very high profile. Ingrid will be helping to put our case together and is awaiting information on the criteria and theme of the funding.

9. **HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE**

Sarah Hughes gave an update. (attached to the Agenda)

Members expressed their concerns that the Edward Peake Crossing is not yet in place. There has been a recent incident concerning a child on the road and Members asked that this work be expedited a matter of urgency.

Members would like to see improvements to Street Lights and illuminated signs in Biggleswade. CBC has adopted all the lights and are on the second stage of the work involved in getting all the lights up to standard. This is a huge piece of work and has a considerable cost implication. Cllr Watkins has presented a written report to Cllr Dalgarno in order to reinforce the urgency of the lighting, particularly in view of the current affect on crime rates.

10. **COMMUNITY SAFETY – This item was taken after item 6 above**

11. **TOWN JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members received the final draft for approval and a vote was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Biggleswade Town Joint Committee **approve** the Town Joint committee Terms of Reference.

12. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The following resolution will be **moved** that it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are **excluded** whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

No Items for Consideration

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Committee **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Date of next Meeting: 23 January 2020