



MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC LAND AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018 AT 7.00 PM
AT BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE

PRESENT:

Cllr B Briars (Chair)
Cllr D Albone
Cllr G Fage
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr D Strachan

Mr M Thorn, Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs J Durn, Meeting Administrator

Members of Public – Cllr P Sheldon, Cllr S Watkins

20/03/01 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr M North, Cllr S Patel, Cllr I Bond

20/03/02 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 20/03/02.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None
20/03/02.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None

20/03/03 3. 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. No members of the public attended the meeting.

20/03/04 4. MINUTES OF MEETING

- 20/03/04.1 a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 02 January 2018.

20/03/05 5. MATTERS ARISING

From the Minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 02 January 2018.

- 20/03/05.1 a. Item 5b: Cllr D Strachan asked for an update on the renewal of the lease for Biggleswade United Football Club. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that draft lease papers had been issued to the club some time ago, but signed papers have not yet been returned and the situation remains the same.
- 20/03/05.2 b. Item 5a: Cllr G Fage asked for an update on the proposed Splash Park fundraising event. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that no further news has been received.

- 20/03/05.3 c. Item 7b: Cllr F Foster asked for an update regarding repairs to the Drove Road chapel. There is no further news. Cllr Briars stated that a report will be coming to a future meeting.

Item 7c: Dan Albane Picnic Area – Cllr Briars reported that the picnic benches are now installed.

Item 7d: Play Equipment Repairs – the Deputy Town Clerk reported that this has now been reinstated.

20/03/06 6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

20/03/06.1 a. Jubilee Recreation Ground

Members considered correspondence requesting the reinstatement of play facilities at Jubilee Recreation Ground. The equipment was removed for safety reasons. Currently there are no S106 funds available for play equipment.

This matter was **DEFERRED** pending further enquiries with developers regarding timescales for installation of play equipment in the adjacent development area, which is expected to link to Jubilee Recreation Ground.

20/03/06.2 b. Biggleswade Football Club

Correspondence has been received from Biggleswade Football Club requesting to purchase or lease the Lakes Recreation Ground for use by the Club.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold further discussions with Biggleswade FC to explore options for a lease and the viability of the site.

20/03/06.3 c. Grounds Maintenance Workshop, Storage and Welfare Facilities

Planning permission for essential new facilities at Drove Road has been refused by Central Bedfordshire Council. Members considered the formal planning notice and the Planning Officer's delegated report.

Alternative outline plans were presented with the proposed building relocated next to the tennis courts and away from the site boundary. Full drawings will be required prior to a new application being submitted.

It was **RESOLVED** to progress the revised plans further and to discuss with planning officers prior to resubmitting a planning application

20/03/06.4 d. Music Festival

Members considered a request to support a new music festival in Biggleswade which is proposed to be held in the grounds of Biggleswade Academy.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the idea in principle and to request a clearer proposal and information from the organising group to be presented to Town Council to consider funding. It was also **RESOLVED** to form a Working Group and to consider Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground as an alternative site.

- 20/03/06.5 **e. Public Land Walkabouts**
- Members considered dates for site visits.
- It was **RESOLVED** to hold site visits on Tuesday 1st May beginning at 6pm.
Further site visits to be scheduled for the next available Tuesday evening once the calendar of Committee meetings has been agreed.
- 20/03/07 7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
- 20/03/07.1 **a. Kings Reach Public Open Space**
- Developers have indicated that they are ready to begin the process of offering play areas for adoption by the Town Council as and when the areas become ready.
- This information was **NOTED**.
- 20/03/08 8. 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.
- No members of the public attended the meeting.
- 20/03/09 9. EXEMPT ITEMS**
- There were no exempt items.