

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 DECEMBER  
2015 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON  
ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr B Briars (Chair), Cllr P Biernis, Cllr F Foster, Cllr M Foster, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr D Strachan,  
Cllr I Bond

Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk  
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant

Eddie Fuller and Peter Sutherst – Biggleswade Scouts

Members of the public - 2

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr M North

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- (a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item** – none declared
- (b) **Non-Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item** – none declared

**3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

**4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Members received and approved the minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 3 November 2015.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Matters arising from the public lands and open spaces meeting held on the 3 November 2015.

Page 1 – Item 5a – Splash Park - Cllr D Strachan asked if any further information had been received.

Cllr B Briars replied that no further information had been provided yet, but he will be attending a meeting with Ross Little on Wednesday 2 December.

Page 2 - none

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a. **Biggleswade Scouts**

Members were asked to consider in principle, allocating an area of land at Fairfield 1<sup>st</sup> Meadow for the Biggleswade Scouts to place or build a building and to use an area of land behind Fairfield 1<sup>st</sup> Meadow for activities.

No approach has been made to the cricket club about the proposals. The Scouts may be obtaining the temporary community hall currently situated on Land East of Biggleswade, this is yet to be confirmed. (a plan of the area of land requested was attached to the agenda).

**With the agreement of Members, the Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.09pm to enable the representatives of Biggleswade Scouts to provide further information regarding item 6a and for them to take questions from Members.**

Eddie Fuller – The red area marked on the map provided, was suggested by the Town Clerk. The track running alongside the area belongs to Fen Reeves, and only a brief discussion has taken place about permission to use the track for access to the site.

The existing building on London Road isn't big enough now – membership is growing, at present they have 235 members with a waiting list.

They want to take traffic and parking away from London Road and need to find a suitable location.

Looking on the map, there will be practical problems if unable to use the track, it would be a long way to carry equipment.

Cllr B Briars asked if there is a timescale in mind.

EF replied that they don't know yet.

BB said that the new Community Centre will be finished either this month or in the next 2 months.

Cllr D Strachan asked how much bigger would the new building need to be.

EF replied that they need 60' x 60', that's a 3<sup>rd</sup> bigger than the present building, which needs constant maintenance due to the age.

The building is used 5 evenings a week and quite often at the weekends as well, all of which causes traffic and parking on London Road, as only one group can meet at once.

Cllr G Wilson said that if Fairfield turned out not to be suitable, what about Furzenhall triangle?

EF said that they had previously looked at the triangle at Furzenhall, but it is owned by CBC who had said that it's not available.

Cllr P Biernis asked if they thought Fairfield is the ideal location.

EF replied yes, as they don't want to interfere with any houses.

#### **Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.21pm**

Members raised concerns about the following points:

Access to the area  
Provision of lighting, services and utilities

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council agree in principle subject to a survey of the access and installation of utilities **AND** if Fairfield is not feasible, to investigate the possibility of other sites.

#### **b. Quotations for Maintenance at the Bowls Club, Drove Road**

Members were asked to consider quotations for works required at the Bowls Club. Quotations were attached to the agenda.

##### **i) Repairs to the irrigation system**

Quotation A    £1,435.00

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council investigate further the cost of repair before this quote is considered.

##### **ii) Relevelling of Bowling Green Edge**

Quotation A    £1,650.00

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quotation A** is accepted.

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**a. Apollo Gardens Play Area**

Following ongoing discussions with Developers an agreement has been reached to alter the layout of play equipment at Apollo Gardens to address concerns raised previously. The multiplay/slide is to be rotated to face the opposite direction, the moved out of the way of the slide and the spinning cup replaced with an alternative spinning item. A revised plan was attached to the agenda. It should be noted that a further request has been made to alter the direction of the bench to face the centre of the play area.

This information was noted.

**b. Poppyfields Play Area**

Works to Poppyfields Play Area are almost complete. A new springer and turnstile have been installed along with the swing frame relocated from The Lakes. The bench and bin have been refurbished and wetpour has been laid including colour wear pads. Replacement bushes have been ordered before the swings can be fitted to the swing frame.

This information was noted.

**c. Kitelands Recreation Ground**

Installation of Zig Zag Twisters and safety surface is expected to start week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> November.

This information was noted.

**d. Additional Public Open Spaces at Land East of Biggleswade**

Central Bedfordshire Council has confirmed that in addition to the Public Open Spaces on Land East of Biggleswade (POS, 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5) considered by PLOS on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015, further areas have since been identified that are likely to include play equipment. Further information has been requested.

This information was noted.

**8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

**9. 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.

**Item 10a - Contracts**

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.