

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON
17 MARCH 2015 AT 7.00PM, AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr M North (Chair), Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson, Cllr B Briars, Cllr I Bond.

Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk
Jan Durn – Administrator
Members of Public – 7

Also Present: Cllr B Rix

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr P Biernis.

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. For Members to receive minutes of Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 2 December 2014.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. From the meeting held on 2 December 2014

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

At 7.15pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable members of the Cricket Club to speak in support of item 6a (ii)

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.21pm

a. **Development of Sport facilities**

Members considered requests submitted by Biggleswade United Football Club and Biggleswade Town Cricket Club for support to improve their sports facilities. Central Bedfordshire Council have confirmed that £52,208 is available to spend on “the construction cost for providing the formal sports areas and changing facilities on Site 1”, i.e. at Land East of Biggleswade.

- i) Biggleswade United Football Club has an outline proposal to relocate to Land East of Biggleswade and to adapt the developer’s original plans which will provide improved football facilities at the site.
- ii) Biggleswade Town Cricket Club has a proposal for the development and improvement of cricket facilities at Fairfield Road.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to support the proposal by Biggleswade United Football Club.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to support the proposal in principle by Biggleswade Town Cricket Club and to arrange a further meeting between the Town Council and the Cricket Club to clarify the financial aspects of the proposals before proceeding further.

b. Music Festival

Members considered setting up a working group to discuss arrangements for a Music Festival in Biggleswade and to give recommendations to Council. Initial discussions have been held with the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Martin Humberstone, Hayley Down and Phil Harnetty (Sound Engineer), and the Biggleswade Academy playing field has been offered as a venue following a preliminary meeting with the school.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Deputy Town Clerk contact all Councillors to ask for volunteers to form a working group to discuss arrangements for a Music Festival and to give recommendations to Council.

c. Community Garden

Members considered a proposal from Cllr P Biernis for a Biggleswade Community Garden on the flower bed at Chestnut Avenue: It's only a very small area and I would be happy to manage this on behalf of the Town Council in conjunction with some local residents. I can get some volunteers from Biggleswade Good Neighbours to help out. I would only be looking to plant some flowers and few shrubs. The other point would we Consider having a sign on the flower bed outside Stratton House pointing out this is maintained by the Town Council?

It was **RECOMMENDED** to proceed with a Community Garden on the flower bed at Chestnut Avenue and to ask Cllr P Biernis to establish a group of volunteers to manage it.

It was **RECOMMENDED** not to install a sign on the flower bed outside Stratton House.

d. Angler Parking Permits

As part of the proposed management of fishing activities on the Town Council owned stretches of the river Ivel, members considered evening parking permits for use in the Dan Albone Car Park to be issued to anglers who hold a valid fishing permit.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to defer this item until there is more clarity on the management of car parks.

e. Quotations for Play Equipment - Springers

Members considered quotations for the supply and installation of replacement springers. The requirement is for three springers to be supplied and installed with a further three to be supplied for stock items for future use.

Quotation A	£4,065.00 – allows for supply of 3 and supply/install of 3 springers
Quotation B	£4,568.00 – allows for supply of 3 and supply/install of 3 springers
Quotation C	£3,343.00 – allows for supply only of 6 springers

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Quotation A should be accepted (funded from 321 EMR Dev Contributions).

f. Quotations for repairs to Flood Lighting at Stratton Way Recreation Ground

Members considered quotations for floodlight repairs at Stratton Way Recreation Ground.

Quotation A	£ 990.00 – allows for replacing lamps and cleaning reflectors and lenses
Quotation B	£1,469.84 – allows for replacing complete head units

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Quotation B should be accepted.

g. Quotations for repairs to Stratton Way Pavilion

Members considered quotations for replacement shower fittings at Stratton Way Pavilion

Quotation A	£2,040.00
Quotation B	£1,080.00

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Quotation B should be accepted.

h. Play equipment at the Lakes Recreation Ground

It was **RECOMMENDED** to seek quotes for the removal of the play equipment and safety surfaces from The Lakes Recreation Ground and relocation of the swings to a more suitable location.

i. Kubota Utility Vehicle

Members considered quotations for leasing an additional Kubota RTV900 Utility Vehicle for use by the Outside workforce.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to ask the Town Clerk to provide further information to include details of the current vehicles, their usage and how an additional vehicle would be used.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Update on contracted works to play areas

- i) **Fairfield Recreation Ground.** Installation of new swings, slide and 'solar spinner' were completed in December including installation of new safety surfaces
- ii) **Franklin Recreation Ground.** Installation of new safety surfaces under senior swings and hang glider have been completed in March 2015.
- iii) **Kitelands Recreation Ground.** Installation of 'supernova' and new safety surfaces under senior swings, roundabout and 'supernova' have been completed in March 2015.
- iv) **Jubilee Recreation Ground.** Unsafe swings and slide have been removed. The removal of concrete and rubber bases has been delayed until the ground is firmer to prevent disturbance of the recreation ground by heavy vehicles.

These items were noted.

8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

MOP1 asked about the quotation process which he thought appeared to be problematic. The Chair said that unfortunately the play equipment was not easily comparable, but that every effort was being made to ensure the process gave enough information for an informed decision.

MOP 1 requested an update on Jubilee Park. This has been covered in item 7 iv). The Chair said it is understood that there are no plans to replace any other equipment, but this can always be reconsidered in the future if it was felt to be necessary.