

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JUNE 2015  
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD,  
BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr B Briars (Chair), Cllr M North, Cllr F Foster, Cllr M Foster, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr G Wilson  
Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk  
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant  
Members of the public – 6  
Ross Little – invited speaker

Also present – Cllr D Albone

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr P Biernis, Cllr I Bond and Cllr S Watkins

**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. INVITED SPEAKER** – Ross Little in support of item 7a – request for a Splash Park in Biggleswade.

Ross Little gave a comprehensive presentation to the meeting supporting the Splash Park, he provided supporting documentation and made the following points:

- The Splash Park would provide a local facility that encourages the younger members of the community to get out and play in a fun, social environment and inspire them to be happy and healthy.
- The 'Build Biggleswade a Kids Splash Park' movement was formed in April 2015, an e-petition was created and to date has over 1,600 signatures.
- An application for charity status was submitted in June 2015 and is currently under consideration.
- As a growing town with new housing developments and a retail park under construction, the number of families that have moved into the area has grown substantially.
- A Splash Park would be a great addition to the traditional parks in Biggleswade, to be used by the immediate and wider community who currently travel to Splash Parks in Letchworth, Stevenage or Baldock.

**5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Cllr M Foster – page 2 – paragraph 2 – should read **Hayley** Down

- a. Subject to this amendment Members received and approved the minutes of the PLOS meeting held on 17 March 2015.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

- a. From the PLOS meeting held on 17 March 2015.

MF- re – page 1 – item 6 a (i) (Development of Sports Facilities, Biggleswade United Football Club) – asked if there is any progress

Cllr B Briars replied that this is still under discussion

Clr D Strachan asked if there are any plans for the area if the planned proposals go ahead. BB replied that there were no plans at the present time.

DS said the Splash Park?

Clr M North said although it is subject to change, the building could be given to the Cricket Club and the football pitch retained by the Town Council to offer floodlit training.

MF – re – page 2 – first paragraph (Development of Sports Facilities, Biggleswade Cricket Club) asked if the meeting had gone ahead.

BB replied that the meeting had taken place with the Town Clerk, but there is no further progress as yet.

## **7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **a. Request for a Splash Park in Biggleswade**

Members were asked to consider supporting a Splash Park in Biggleswade.

Correspondence was received from a member of the public requesting that a Kids Splash Park be built in Biggleswade. A copy of the correspondence was attached to the agenda, together with supporting documents.

2 locations have been suggested for the Splash Park:

- Franklin Recreation Ground, near Mill Lane
- Saxon Play Park behind the leisure centre swimming pool off Chambers Way.

He is in touch with a lady who has successfully campaigned for a Splash Park in Royston, which is to be built in the autumn ready for next summer at an approximate cost of £150K.

He is asking if the local developers of the new Retail Park, Kings Reach development or the wind farm could be approached for funding.

A small committee has been started, who are arranging a Float for the Biggleswade Carnival in support of a Splash Park in Biggleswade.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council offer support in principle to the request for a Splash Park in Biggleswade and help the Committee where possible, with at least one member of the Town Council to join the Splash Park Committee.

### **b. Works to Play Areas**

**At this point in the meeting, the Chair brought item 8a (Kitelands MUGA) forward on the agenda, with the agreement of Committee members.**

Members considered quotes for works to the following play areas. A total of seven companies have been approached to supply quotes for works to play areas. The following quotations have been received for consideration:

#### **i) Kitelands Recreation Ground: Installation of Play Equipment**

Quotations have been requested for the following installation onto a redundant base at Kitelands Recreation Ground, to be funded from **321 EMR Dev Contributions**:

- Remove and dispose of rubber tiles.
- Supply and install 2 off Zig Zag Twister play units
- Install kerb edging and black wetpour 22m<sup>2</sup>

<b>Quote A</b>	<b>Quote B</b>	<b>Quote C</b>
£5,000.00	£4,960.00	£4,198.07

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quote B** is accepted.

Also, in reference to item 8a, it was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council meet with residents who had expressed concerns over the location of the MUGA.

**ii) Lakes Recreation Ground: Removal of Toddler Swing Frame and Bases**

At the Town Council meeting of 24 March 2015 it was RESOLVED 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.

Quotations have been requested for the following works, to be funded from **321 EMR Dev Contributions**:

- Removal of one toddler swing frame from concrete base (to be reinstalled at Poppyfields Play Area 2).
- Removal of one concrete base and rubber tiles – area 18m<sup>2</sup>
- Removal of one concrete base – area 45m<sup>2</sup>
- Make level with topsoil and sow grass seed.

<b>Quote A</b>	<b>Quote B</b>	<b>Quote C</b>
£3,675.50	£1,380.00	£2,425.50

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quote B** is accepted.

**iii) Poppyfields Play Area 2: Refurbishment of Play Area**

Quotations have been requested for the following works to improve Poppyfields Play Area 2, to be funded from **321 EMR Dev Contributions**:

- Remove the following items: wooden duck springer, static wooden pig, static wooden loch ness monster, rubber tiles including hopscotch.
- Install Toddler swing (relocated from Lakes Recreation Ground)
- Supply and install turnstile play item
- Install Springer item (from our stock)
- Supply and install bench
- Wetpour throughout play area, 81m<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Quote A</b>	<b>Quote B</b>	<b>Quote C</b>
£8,890.00	£5,240.00	£7,988.00

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quote B** is accepted.

**iv) Litter Bins**

Quotations have been requested for the supply of an additional six litter bins to be sited at various recreation grounds, to be funded from current budget.

<b>Quote A</b>	<b>Quote B</b>
£1,614.00	£2,184.00

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

**c. Improvements to Allotments**

Members considered works to improve the Allotments at Kennel Farm Road. Consideration is requested for these items to either be funded from Reserves or to support an application to the Langford and Biggleswade Windfarm Community Fund Group.

**i) Improvements to Allotment Access Road**

Members considered works to improve the access road to the Kennel Farm Road Allotments.

Consideration is for the section of road from the black barn to the allotment car park. The condition of this access road continues to deteriorate and has historically been maintained by the application of additional 'MOT Type 1' aggregate material which is used to patch fill holes before being compacted with a roller. This was last done in the autumn 2014 with deliveries of 40 tonnes of material. However the road is in a poor condition once again with deep potholes.

Four companies were approached to provide quotes to improve the road by 'regrading', or scraping the existing road and applying screened road planings, with a vibrating roller being used to bind the materials together. Quotes A and C allow for application of screened road planings. Quote B allows for application of tarmacadam surface.

<b>Quote A</b>	<b>Quote B</b>	<b>Quote C</b>
£2,990.00	£15,261.65	£5,980.00

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

#### ii) **Installation of Dip Tanks**

Members considered the installation of Dip Tanks for the supply of water for allotment holders.

A dip tank is a large trough with a service box containing a ball valve which enables the trough to be kept topped up and users take water by dipping with buckets or cans. There are currently four taps at the allotments. Due to the low water pressure and high demand for water in the summer months, users often find that they have to wait for water if more than one tap is in use at a time. Hose pipes are not permitted to be used for irrigating allotments.

Quotations have been requested for the supply of four galvanised dip tanks 8' x 2' x 2' with a capacity of 200 gallons each.

<b>Quote A</b>	<b>Quote B</b>
£1,290.00	£974.22

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quote B** is accepted.

#### d. **Vehicles**

At the Public Lands & Open Spaces Committee meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Members were asked to consider 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.

A report on the use of vehicles was attached to the agenda.

From quotes received earlier this year it is expected that lease costs would be approximately £450/month for an additional Kubota RTV900.

Following the Town Council's decision to take on an additional member of staff to join the Outside Workforce, Members were asked to consider recommending that up to date quotes for leasing an additional Kubota RTV900 are sought for consideration by Town Council.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council proceed with the leases for the vehicles.

#### e. **Drove Road Cemetery**

Members considered a site meeting at Drove Road Cemetery to discuss future works, to include removing or repairing perimeter paths and repointing the cemetery wall and other maintenance work as required.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that any future works be discussed after a site visit.

**f. PLOS Walkabouts**

Members considered future dates for site meetings to review play areas and recreation grounds with a view to identifying priorities and specifications for future works.

Councillors **agreed** on the following dates: **Tuesday 30 June and Tuesday 7 July.**

**8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**a. Kitelands MUGA**

The installation of the MUGA at Kitelands Recreation Ground was delayed to allow for an application for a Certificate of Lawful Development. The certificate has now been granted by Central Bedfordshire Council and works are expected to proceed in due course.

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**b. Brunel Drive Play Area**

The Deputy Town Clerk has reached an agreement with the agents for the developers over the adoption of Brunel Drive, to include the following:

- Boundaries agreed, to exclude all banks.
- Removal of shrubs, bushes, chippings and horticultural membrane within the play area, make levels good with topsoil and lay turf.
- Replacement of swing apparatus to include new frame and swings and make good the safety surface.
- Replacement of wooden fence with metal bow top fence in green around perimeter of the play area.
- Adjust chain lengths on swinging plank to prevent trap hazard where plank fouls on the ground.
- A commuted sum of £26,000.00 payable to Biggleswade Town Council.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this be noted.

**9. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

MOP 1 – Congratulated Town Council on the erection of the Graffiti boards. It is on the 'We love Biggleswade' Facebook page and has received positive comments.

**10. 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.

**There were 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.