

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15
SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr B Briars (Chair), Cllr M North, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr M Foster, Cllr P Biernis, Cllr F Foster
Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Members of the public – 4 (inc Ross Little – Splash Park Committee)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr I Bond and Cllr G Wilson.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) interests in any agenda item – none declared.

(b) interests in any agenda item – none declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items raised during the public open session.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

a. Members received the minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 16 June 2015.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a. From the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 16 June 2015.

Item 7c – Improvement to Allotments – an update was requested on whether the work been carried out.

The roadway has been completed, funded from Town Council Reserves. Allotment dip tanks are programmed for installation through the autumn/winter.

Item 7d – Vehicles – An update was requested on progress with the new vehicle as well as recruiting a new member of staff.

The vehicle has been delivered and is in use. The advert for the additional member of Ground Staff will be advertised at the same time as the new Officer Manager/Supervisor.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Proposed Public Arts Feature and Seating at Dan Albone Car Park

Members are asked to consider a request from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity for the installation of a Public Arts Feature and Seating at Dan Albone Car Park.

“In relation to enhancing the area further, and to highlight the links to both Dan Albone and the Green Wheel, I have secured some funding, which could be spent in the car park / picnic area. In particular an ‘arts feature’ and some seating, which I think could work well on the grass area immediately west of the pumping station. We could also look to add a bit more planting to screen the pumping station and provide an attractive backdrop.”

Further information was attached to the agenda.

It was proposed and seconded to recommend that the request is granted. An amendment to the proposal that Town Council ask for a plan of the area before making a recommendation was not seconded.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this request is granted.

b. 66th Biggleswade Sports Meeting – 9 July 2016

Town Council has received correspondence from Biggleswade Sports to advise that they plan to hold their 66th Annual Sports Meeting on Saturday 9 July 2016 commencing at 12.00, midday, at Fairfield Sports Ground. Biggleswade Cricket Club Secretary has agreed to the date. They are requesting permission to use the Sports Ground as well as the Pavilion and Toilets.

Members were asked to consider this request.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this request is granted.

c. Biggleswade Splash Park Committee

Correspondence from the Biggleswade Kids Splash Park Committee was attached to the agenda.

Members were asked to consider the following two matters:

- 1) To use Franklin Recreation Ground as a site for a Splash Park

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Franklin Recreation Ground be used for the Splash Park.

- 2) For the Town Council to adopt the Splash Park once built.

With agreement of the Committee, the Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow Ross Little, Splash Park Committee, to address the meeting.

Ross Little said that he would ask Leighton Linlade Town Council to attend a Council meeting, as they have a Splash Park similar to the one planned for Biggleswade, and would be able to answer Members questions. He explained that the fund raising committee is set up as a Community Interest Company and have various events planned to raise funds annually. CBC has also given advice on possible sources of funding to apply for.

The Chair re-instated Standing Orders.

It was commented on that the information given at an earlier presentation was now out of date as there had been progress with developing the business case and identifying a preferred operating model, also that the Town Council may wish to dedicate a full meeting to consider the options.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council adopt the Splash Park once built, subject to further information being provided and a presentation to Town Council.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Update on current works and orders

Kitelands Recreation Ground

Play Equipment: an order has been placed for the installation of two Zig Zag Twisters, removal of rubber tiles and installation of kerb edging and wetpour. The contractor is currently waiting on delivery of play equipment.

MUGA: additional groundworks have been identified, which is planned to be carried out by Town Council staff in the autumn prior to the installation of the MUGA.

Lakes Recreation Ground

The swing frame has been removed and repainted ready for installation at Poppyfields. Concrete bases and tiles have been replaced with top soil and reseeded.

Poppyfields Play Area (2)

Contractor waiting on supply of Turnstile prior to commencing work. Benches have been removed for refurbishment.

Litter Bins

Six bins have been received and will be installed at Dan Albone Car Park (x1), Eagle Farm Road (x2), Franklin Recreation Ground (x2). One bin has been reserved for installation by the MUGA at Kitelands Recreation Ground.

Allotment Access Road

The allotment road has been completed and feedback from allotment holders has been extremely positive.

Allotment Dip Tanks

Four dip tanks have been received. Installation is planned for the autumn/winter ready for next season.

Vehicles

An additional Kubota RTV X900 Utility Vehicle has been delivered and is in use by Ground Staff.

Football Pitches

Works through the summer have included overseeding all of the football pitches and making good worn areas including goal mouths at Stratton Way Recreation Ground and the Lakes. Changes to the layout of pitches at Eagle Farm Road have been made to accommodate the requirements of various youth teams using the site for training and matches. The available pitches are as follows:

Eagle Farm Road	80x50 yards	60x40 yards	40x30 yards
The Lakes	98x55 yards	75x50 yards	
Stratton Way	98x55 yards		

This information was noted.

8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

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

There were no items raised 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.