PRESENT:

Cllr D Albone
Cllr I Bond
Cllr B Briars
Cllr L Fage
Cllr F Foster
Cllr M Foster
Cllr M North (Chairman)
Cllr H Ramsay
Cllr M Russell (Vice Chairman)
Cllr P Sheldon
Cllr D Strachan

Mr M Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council
Members of Public – 4

A12/0301 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Fage

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES

Cllr S Patel, Cllr S Watkins

A12/0302 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A12/0302.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - none

A12/0302.2 b. Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr D Albone - Item 9d.

A12/0303 3. TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor attended:
28 February – Tree planting ceremony for Erlensee Twinning
28 February – East/West Rail Consultation with Cllr H Ramsay
5 March – Sea Cadets Annual Royal Naval Inspection
10 March – CBC Civic Service at Woburn
11 March – Lord Lt. Award Ceremony at Henlow Air Base, at which Biggleswade Watch Commander Eddie Wing (Retired) was awarded the British Empire Medal.
4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Dr Hayley Whittaker would like to ask about the Splash Park. As the first public open session is for items specifically on the Agenda, this question will be taken at the second public open session when any topic not on the agenda can be addressed.

5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

There was no invited speaker.

6. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

There were no Members questions.

7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

a. Members received and approved the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 26 February 2019.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

From the Minutes of the Biggleswade Town Council Meeting held on 26 February 2019.

Item B26/0206.1: Cllr Briars asked for an update on the windfarm community fund.

A meeting is taking place at CBC next week, and Cllr Ramsay will receive the updates from Sarah Hughes.

It was requested that this item be placed on the next Council Agenda.

Item B26/0211.2: Cllr Strachan gave an update following a recent Police Priority Setting meeting.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. **CB/19/00240/FULL– 10 Maple Close, Biggleswade SG18 0EE**

Renewal of change of use of garage to dog grooming business.

Council have previously objected to this application.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council **OBJECT** to this Planning Application on the grounds that this is a quiet, residential close, and is not a suitable location for commercial use. Also, on the grounds of highways access, parking and traffic issues.

b. **CB/19/00294/FULL - 10 Thames Bank, Biggleswade SG18 8NW**

Proposed new conservatory and garage conversion.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of
light and privacy of adjacent residents; and that there is no loss of off-street parking as a result of this Planning Application.

A12/0309.3  c. **CB/19/00396/FULL – 42 Sun Street, Biggleswade SG18 8BP**
Rear single-storey extension following demolition of existing rear single-storey building.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A12/0309.4  d. **CB19/00208/FULL – 3 Drove Road, Biggleswade SG18 8HD**
Proposed part double and part single-storey rear extension

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A12/0309.5  e. **CB/19/00477/FULL – 6 Coopers Close, Biggleswade SG18 8LA**
Proposed loft conversion and single-storey front and side extensions.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

A12/0310  10. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A12/0310.1  a. **CB/TCA/19/00056 – Works to Tree in a Conservation Area: Millers Court, Biggleswade SG18 0LD**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Application.

A12/0310.2  b. **Biggleswade Sports Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to the use of the ground pavilion and toilet block at Fairfield Ground on 13 July 2019 for the Annual Athletic Track Meeting.

A12/0310.3  c. **Ivel Valley School – Consultation**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support this Consultation. Details can be found on: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSjNWYZ-a2tRFKba7C8qTdodTBHXY13-HBnjLqwdfDAZrZA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSjNWYZ-a2tRFKba7C8qTdodTBHXY13-HBnjLqwdfDAZrZA/viewform)

Councillors are welcome to submit their own comments on line.
New Spring Farm – Pre-Consultation for telecommunications upgrade

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council support this development.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Crime Statistics for February 2019

This information was NOTED.

Cllr Strachan would like to thank the Community Safety Group for their valuable input and would welcome their continued support.

Notification of Tree Works – Conservation Area – CB/TCA/1900031

This information was NOTED.

East West Rail – Parish and Town Council Engagement

Members were updated on the outcome of the meeting held on 28 February 2019 at Sandy Town Council Offices.

Following a full and interesting discussion on the implications locally, disappointment was voiced at the news that this was to be a single train/single track each way and was therefore nowhere near a permanent solution.

This information was NOTED.

Neighbourhood Plan Engagement Events – 20th and 21st March 2019

This is moving forward apace. Cllr Russell will be there on both days, (The Old Court House on 20th and the Orchard Centre on 21st) and asked for support from Councillors to also attend these events in order to obtain public views on the priorities for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Members were asked to let the Deputy Town Clerk know their availability to attend for a rota.

Planning Application Outcomes

It was NOTED that some of the Council objections had not been taken into account by CBC Planning Officers, particularly those on overdevelopment.

Members would like to know why this is not taken as a valid objection, as there are at least three applications where this has been overlooked.

It was requested for the Clerk to ask Cllr Watkins to brief the meeting on the background to this.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Dr H Whittaker (on behalf of members of the public): Regarding the Splash Park. What is causing the delay, and are there other options? What do we
have to do in order to bring the Splash Park forward? Has not received a response from Cllr Briars

Cllr Briars responded that he has not yet received any notification or feedback. Negotiations to take over the area are still continuing with CBC Asset Team, and a timescale cannot be set until these are complete.

Dr Whittaker: There is some concern that the Skate Park is going ahead but that Splash Park is not happening?

Council responded: CBC is heavily involved in sorting out the issues with the Skate Park and it is expected that further plans for the site will not proceed until after the skate park project is completed. Please be assured that the Town Council are still looking positively at the Chambers Way site.

Mr Sharpe: Asked if the walkway through the Crown is still a Right of Way? This question follows an incident where he was walking his dogs through the walkway and was told by a person from Wetherspoons that this was not allowed.

Council responded: This is indeed a Right of Way; Councillor’s asked that the Clerk inform the CBC Rights of Way Team of both this incident and the encroachment of tables across the walkway.

Mr Bacon: Does the Council get a reason from CBC as to why they put through applications that have been objected to?

Council responded: The Council does not receive any communication from CBC giving reasons behind these decisions.

14. 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 is discussed.

Item 15a: NP Group – Request
Item 15b: Hallie Homes - Letter

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council resolved to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.