

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance:
Councillor D Hawley
Mrs S Haydon

54.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Harper
Councillor Jones
Councillor Rushton

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: Councillor Sheldon in any item relating to Biddulph in Bloom, as Chair.

56. MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 9 February 2016.
- b Tourism Committee – no meeting held due to lack of business.

57. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TENDER

Two tenders had been received and one company had declined to tender. The tenders were discussed – the Chair said that it was a difficult decision, as there was quite a difference between the two tenders, but that the higher tenderer had provided excellent service over the past two contract terms. It was Moved to ask the lower tenderer for references and contact those councils to ask opinion on the quality of work. Councillor Hawley asked if the lower quote was realistic and Councillor Hart said that it was vital to make

sure that the Public Liability insurance was adequate. Councillors informed newer members of the problems experienced by poor Christmas lighting contractors prior to the previous contractor's appointment.

Councillor Sheldon thought the lighting scheme needed updating as the installation expense came from crossing over the road. The Chair replied that they had decided to have a meeting in May to look at whole question of the lights. Councillor Jackson pointed out that it had originally been an initiative by the Chamber of Trade, but Town Council had ended up with the whole expense of the lights.

The Chair summarised: if satisfactory references and information on Public Liability was obtained we would go ahead with the lower quote with a break clause at one year, subject to satisfactory performance. All were in favour. This would be reported back to Town Council at the next meeting.

58. CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Councillor Sheldon reported that this was now getting into full swing and was worth joining in. Biddulph in Bloom did this every week, and could encourage public to join in.

Councillor Hawley said that the Biddulph Moor Community Association usually did a litter pick prior to Biddulph in Bloom judging. Perhaps it would be worth writing to all Residents Associations in town to ask them to get involved. It was also suggested to notify schools to ask for assistance.

It was decided to specify the dates of Saturday 16th – Wednesday 20th April as the Clean for the Queen Biddulph event. Councillor Sheldon said that we would need extra sacks and any litter grabbers/gloves the District Council could loan to us.

59. POSTERS AND BANNERS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

The Chair reported that councillors had received a lot of complaints about banners on railings around the town. They appeared and were left there for weeks. Councillor Hart said that the District Council adopted legislation on this some time ago. Councillor Hall agreed and said that if banners/signs were under 0.6 of a square meter they were legal and no planning permission was necessary on Council land. The major issue was people not taking them down. Councillor Sheldon also agreed that legislation does exist and suggested asking the District Council for copy of the policy – about four years ago.

The Chair suggested speeding up the process by asking those who put them up to remove them within 7 days. Councillor Hart warned that we would need to be careful of the legal standing. Councillor Hawley felt that removing the way for charities/community events to advertise their events would penalise them. Members voted in favour of contacting those siting the banners.

60. MAYOR'S CADET

Councillor Salt liked to support young people and suggested appointing a Mayor's Young Person to accompany the Mayor at official functions throughout the year, should she be elected as Mayor for the coming year.

Councillor Lawson noted that the Lord Lieutenant had a cadet; but most Staffordshire Mayors did not do this. Councillor Hart suggested having a young person, perhaps for a three months term, but it was up to the Mayor

Councillor Redfern felt that it was a great idea and suggested drawing up guidelines as to what was appropriate. Not all activities would be suitable.

Councillor Hawley felt that the idea of keeping this within the uniformed groups would be better; it would be a great honour to be the cadet for a year. This should be from the Scouts, Guides and Air Cadets.

Councillor Jackson felt that the idea had merit, but could see possible pitfalls – the Mayor would be responsible for that young person's safety.

Councillor Baddeley said that she was so busy as Mayor, this could be too much of a responsibility. Councillor Salt suggested contacting Congleton Town Council to ask how they organised the scheme. The Chief Officer would seek further information.

61. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a the Chair thanked Councillor Lawson – he had met with the appropriate officers over closing the spur road in Station Road to make a turning circle and extended garden area. This would be going forwards and would be funded from S.106 money for Station Road.
- b The Queen's Birthday Beacon – the Chair asked if any contact had been made with Biddulph Moor Village Hall. Councillor Hawley was not sure and would ask.
- c Two completed village signs were presented to the meeting and were now almost ready for siting. Residents Associations had been involved with the design and the selection of locations and permissions had been obtained.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Signed Date