

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2016

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding

9.16 APOLOGIES

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Hart

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: none were declared.

11 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 13 June 2016.

12 TOWN HALL FRONTAGE

Councillor Davies stated that work will begin in August until the end of the year on the re-development of the Town Hall. This is an appropriate time for the committee to start thinking about uses for the frontage of the building.

Councillor Jones stated that we need to use the space where the wheel is. Councillor Davies had received an update from Councillor Harper who was hoping that the wheel could form part of a memorial to miners who had lost their lives; the wheel could be moved into Station Road. Councillor Wood felt there should be more open space in front of the Town Hall and that the market can then utilise this space. The wheel should be retained as a reminder of Biddulph's history. Councillor Hall felt that an architect could advise us on this. Councillor Jackson felt we should consider who will pay for this as this is not Biddulph Town Council's land. Councillor Redfern agreed that we should utilise this space and

draw people into the town. Perhaps the area to the side of the Town Hall could be used this as memorial garden.

Councillor Hall stated that this was our town, and we need to start this piece of work. This should be taken forward to Town Deal meetings and the District Council. The Chief Officer will take this forward.

Councillor Court queried whether the work would be complete for the Christmas lights switch on. Councillor Davies confirmed that we will retain space for the Christmas tree.

Councillor Jackson stated that there was an issue on market day for taxi drivers. Councillor Rogers felt that the taxi rank on the day of the Artisan Market is bigger than the usual area. Councillor McGuinness felt that changes would also help with access for bus companies.

Councillor Davies stated that we need to be careful with the railings as these were funded by the community.

13 COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON THE HIGH STREET

Councillor Davies stated that there was an issue with large commercial vehicles using and blocking the High Street. Councillor Rogers updated members about several incidents that he had witnessed.

Councillor Wood queried whether it would be possible to put a weight limit on the High Street.

Councillor Redfern suggested that the sign that was at the bottom of Mill Hayes Road may be appropriate. Councillor Hall moved that we try to get a sign, seconded by Councillor Jones. Councillor McGuinness felt that the weight on the High Street is a problem, and is detrimental to the High Street itself.

Councillor Jackson queried whether this could be done by Councillor Lawson's pot of money. Councillor Lawson confirmed that he would consider this when he knew what was needed.

Councillor Jones felt that the point needed to be made about Blue Badges; they cannot just park anywhere. The Police should prosecute if they are causing an obstruction.

It was agreed that a sign should go up at the top of the High Street. Councillor Jackson felt that we should look again at 'no unloading' on the High Street. The Chief Officer updated members on a letter she had sent to Councillor Deaville, following a request for the General Purposes Committee.

14 STOPPING UP PROJECT STATION ROAD

Councillor Davies updated members on this issue. Committee members had understood that this issue was progressing, but the Chief Officer had discovered

that Highways were unaware of this request and did not have an application from Biddulph Town Council for this project. Councillor Davies asked members whether they were happy to agree that the Committee begins this process. This was proposed by Councillor Lawson, seconded by Councillor Wood. All agreed. The Chief Officer will pursue this and make enquiries in relation to the s.106 money for the area by Sainsbury's. This information should be provided for the next meeting.

Councillor Davies updated members that there could be £6,000-£7,000 of costs associated with this piece of work.

15 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There will be a meeting with traders on Wednesday 27 July at 2pm. At this meeting there will be discussion about how they would like to engage with the Council and their involvement with the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Councillor Jones requested that the invitation letters should be sent to Biddulph Moor and Knypersley shops.

Councillor Davies updated members that some maintenance of stalls for the Artisan Market was needed—gazebo tops need cleaning and new table tops are required. This is necessary work if we want the market to grow. There would be a cost attached to this.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed Date