

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Whilding

24.16 APOLOGIES

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Hall
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Swift
Councillor Jones

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Interests: none were declared. Minute 29 - Councillors Court and Salt members of the British Legion.

26 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 9 August 2016.

27 FRONTAGE OF TOWN HALL

Councillor Davies stated that there would be a delay with the work on the Town Hall, but that this would be going ahead imminently. The frontage should be considered after the renovation, taking into consideration Councillor Sheldon's letter. This Committee should give some consideration to the lighting at the front of the Town Hall now.

Councillor Davies stated that there were basically three options- up/down/flood-lighting.
Councillor McGuinness thought LED lights were the best.

Councillor Sheldon felt that up-lighting is gentler; Councillor Rushton agreed.

Councillor Hart thought that most really nice schemes had up-lighting.

Councillor Harper thought that St Lawrence's church was a good example of where lighting worked well and we needed to make a statement.

Councillor Sheldon felt that the Town Council should take some advice.

Councillor Davies felt that up-lighting, by some means, seemed to be the best way.

The Chief Officer will seek advice on lighting the front of the Town Hall and the trees. Councillor Rushton suggested this should also include lighting in the steps.

28 STATION ROAD STOPPING UP UPDATE

The Chief Officer stated that this was still being considered by the Land Charges Team.

Councillor Salt queried whether there was any further information available about the S.106 money. The Chief Officer will chase this again.

Councillor Davies suggested that Councillors bring ideas to the next meeting.

29 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:

- **DISCUSSION OF JOHN ROBINSON'S (TOWN CRIER) LETTER**
- **ELAINE RICE (ROYAL BRITISH LEGION)**

Mrs Rice was invited to speak in relation to Remembrance Sunday.

Mrs Rice stated that there were several key considerations. One of which was where the procession should start. There was discussion about the logistics of starting at the Town Hall, Sainsburys and by the library.

Timing is critical. The Mayor could place her wreath before 11am, and others could be added afterwards. Mrs Rice confirmed that the church can change the time of the service.

Mrs Rice stated that one issue is the need for more marshalls. Councillor Court suggested that the Rotary may be able to help and proposed that he ask whether this would be possible.

Councillor Rogers suggested that Mrs Rice make the final arrangements and let the Council know what was needed. Councillor Davies agreed.

Councillor Harper suggested that Mrs Rice and the Town Crier develop a running order and tell people where they need to be in the procession and for the wreath-laying.

Councillor McGuinness wondered whether the Town Crier should announce wreath-layers individually or in groups.

Councillor Sheldon felt there should be a longer-term plan, where the whole area is re-developed: re-site the post box, remove the litter bin, and remove the planting. This would provide a better area to congregate.

Councillor Salt stated that people could still congregate at the Town Hall; they don't need to stand on the steps. Councillor Salt queried whether the car park could be closed to assist people with disabilities. The Chief Officer would investigate.

Councillor Davies concluded that Mrs Rice should make the final plan and inform the Town Council how they can assist.

30 OVERTON ROAD TROUGHS

Councillor Hart stated that residents were concerned that heavy vehicles were getting too close to Overton Road troughs. Councillor Hart proposed that the Committee look at the possibility of protecting these before they are destroyed. This is an ideal project for the Moorlands Partnership.

Councillor Sheldon stated that she had completed an enormous amount of work on wells and that protection is important. There are seven wells in the town and surrounding area. A wider wells project would be wonderful.

Councillor Davies stated that the troughs at Overton Road are in a very exposed position.

Councillor Rogers felt the project should be expanded to all troughs, and discussed the Vinegar Trough in Gillow Heath.

Councillor Hart felt that we need to liaise with Conservation Officer.

Councillor McGuinness supported this and felt that it might take 3-6 months to get the project together.

Councillor Jackson stated that the first point of call should be Highways. There may be implications for the roads if barriers are added.

Councillor Davies proposed that these options should be investigated. Councillor Court seconded. All agreed to investigate.

31 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Davies informed the Committee that the Events Director contract could not be extended and that we would need to start to look at what was needed. Councillor Jackson queried whether this was a role for the HR Committee. Councillor Davies agreed, but stated that the role was currently funded by the Civic Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm

Signed Date