

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2018

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Wood
The Deputy Mayor Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Nicosia

95.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Jones
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- ii. Other Interests: Minute 100, Councillor Salt was a resident of John Street. Minute 102, Councillors Court and Hall were members of Biddulph Rotary as was the owner of Glebe Farm.

97. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 2018 were signed.
- b) The Minutes of the Tourism Sub-Committee meeting held on 13 February 2018 were received.
- c) The Minutes of the Cenotaph and Centenary Working Group meeting held on 19 February 2018 were received.

98. STATION ROAD UPDATE

Councillor Davies reported that the planning application would be decided at the meeting to be held on Thursday 15 March 2018; he was excluded from talking in favour of the application due to the clerical error where his name had been mistakenly added as the applicant.

Councillor Davies noted that when the plans had been approved, the architect would draw up the technical design at a cost of £500 and put out the work to tender at a cost of £300. He sought approval to instruct Ms Poole from Committee members. It was proposed by Councillor Hart that, if the plans were approved, to accept the next steps; seconded by Councillor Salt and agreed.

Councillor Salt noted that this scheme had been her idea when she had been elected to Council and had the support of all three sides of the Chamber. She thanked members for their ongoing support.

Councillor Wood asked if this Council would receive the interest on the S.106 money that had been held by the District Council for a number of years.

99. GARAGE TENANCY AGREEMENT RENEWAL DUE- NO INCREASE PROPOSED

Councillor Davies was concerned about the garage that was used for the Artisan Market storage; the only good point was the convenient location. The tenancy was up for renewal, with no proposed increase. Councillor Davies felt this Council could find a better place and proposed that a 6 month tenancy is requested.

Councillor Hart suggested a continuous tenancy month-by-month as he was sure that this Council would soon receive an offer of alternative premises.

Councillor Court would pass details to the Chief Officer of the lessor of an excellent facility. It was noted that there were currently a number of options to consider, but this would take some time to arrange.

Councillor Salt felt there was scope to ask for the jobs to be carried out to make the garage into a fit. The Chief Officer would make that case when negotiating the lease.

Councillor McGuinness mentioned the garage at the Biddulph Arms; the pub had closed, but the brewery could be approached to rent out the garage.

Councillor Salt suggested negotiating a month-by-month contract until the roof is satisfactorily repaired. The Chief Officer would enter negotiations and report back to the Committee.

100. CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLING A BOLLARD ON THE ALLEYWAY BETWEEN HIGH STREET AND JOHN STREET- NEXT STEP TO CANVASS TRADERS AND RESIDENTS

The entry was a cause for concern for residents and traders; it was used as a short-cut and some vehicles travelled at excessive speed. The alleyway was used for rear access to properties; however, most used the John Street access. Access was required for the Artisan Market vehicles.

Councillor Davies proposed that a removable bollard is installed; this would require careful consideration and consultation. He requested permission to canvass the traders and residents.

Councillor Hart agreed that we should move to the consultation stage, but queried who would control the access. Councillor Wood thought it would be a minefield if too many people had control; the keys and/or the bollard could be mislaid. Councillor Davies felt that the Town Council should be the only key-holder.

Councillor Salt expressed concern about access for emergency vehicles.

Councillor Rogers had been asked by residents about the bollard. He suggested a 'drop and lock' type, which could not be mislaid; emergency services would be able to remove it via a radar key. He felt that the route had become a rat-run at night due to the one-way system on North High Street.

Councillor Lawson had been concerned about the situation for five years; the main users were the takeaway drivers. Local residents wanted the alleyway shut.

Councillor Hall advised that it would all come out in the consultation.

Councillor Davies proposed that a consultation is carried out, this was agreed.

101. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Davies proposed that Standing Orders were suspended to allow Councillor Flunder to address the meeting. This was agreed.

Councillor Flunder wanted to help with the concerns that Councillors had raised in relation to Knypersley crossroads, and needed approval for his proposal before the end of this financial year. Councillor Hart moved to accept any offer of help.

Councillor Flunder had £3000 to spend and had been canvassed by three Councils. He proposed to use some of it to install additional barriers at the crossroads and appropriate signage advising pedestrians not to cross diagonally.

Councillor Flunder noted that the request for the return of the crossing patrol had been submitted and reports were awaited. He also wanted to instigate a safety campaign in the local schools.

Councillor Salt thanked Councillor Flunder for his work so far.

Councillor Davies thanked Councillor Flunder and proposed that Standing Orders were resumed.

Councillor Hart thought this was a good start, but that there was still a lot of work to do at this junction.

Councillor Davies mentioned the current roadworks at the junction by Severn Trent Water Authority (STWA) on a manhole cover. This had resulted in four-way traffic lights.

Councillor Nicosia was extremely disappointed. She had contacted STWA and logged her dissatisfaction; the lights had been put on the 'jobs to do list' as this was a dangerous road. Councillor Nicosia had expected the situation to be remedied. Councillor Nicosia had telephone STWA again on Tuesday morning. She was assured that the puffin lights would be working at school times, this did not happen. Anxious and concerned parents were having to run across the road, dodging the traffic; Councillor Nicosia felt that a crossing patrol would have been a great help.

The Chief Officer had made representations to the County Network Inspector and had been assured that the works would be complete by Tuesday morning and the temporary lights removed, that had not happened. She assumed that there was a separate crew that would come to remove the traffic lights.

Councillor Wood had first-hand knowledge of the problems and had witnessed similar problems with STWA in other places.

Councillor Hart noted that Councillor Nicosia had done a phenomenal job. The work had been inconvenient and dangerous to both drivers and parents crossing the road. He wanted to make it plain that this type of action was not acceptable

Councillor Hall suggested writing to STWA for an explanation as to why the criteria had not been adhered to; this should be copied to the Network Inspector.

Councillor Lawson concurred adding that in times gone by the police would have been on site controlling the crossing. He had sent a letter in support for reinstating the crossing patrol.

Councillor Salt noted that the crossing patrol at the old Meadows site should be retained as it was used every night. She noted that STWA had a corporate social responsibility and should offer compensation for the chaos and danger caused, suggesting that it could contribute to the bollard scheme or a road education programme.

Councillor Davies proposed that a form of compensation is requested in the letter. It was agreed to write to STWA.

Councillor Rogers gave an update. Biddulph Grange would be open to Biddulph residents one weekend in September. Biddulph Town Council had been offered the opportunity to operate a table selling its own goods on that weekend. He suggested that calendars could be sold.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair to move:-

"That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 10 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated."

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed Date