

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jones
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance:
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Harper

44.15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Hart
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom. Minute 46c Councillor Hall as a Rotarian
- b Other Disclosable Interests. Reference Minute 49 Councillor Walley as a Board Member of Your Moorlands

46. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 20 September 2016.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 September 2016.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 October 2016.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Burial Grounds Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 October 2016.

47 TRANSPORT COORDINATOR UPDATE

Councillor McGuinness reported on a productive meeting with the Chief Officer and representatives of two local bus companies – Chris Almond from D & G and Dan Flanagan from First Potteries.

Councillor McGuinness noted that the bus companies had not met with the Town Council for several years. Councillor McGuinness suggested that his name and role could be added to the Biddulph website to ensure people knew who could be contacted in relation to transport.

The idea of making South View one-way was discussed. Chris Almond suggested that the mini-roundabout should be removed and a 'no right turn' sign should be added to the bottom of South View. There was discussion about the bollards on the corner of South View and the impact that this has on the longer buses. There was also some frustration about the parking along High Street South; this had resulted in some minor collisions.

Chris Almond suggested that the Council considered that deliveries could only come at night or early morning to High Street premises. The Chief Officer confirmed that the Council was considering the options with regard to loading on the High Street.

The Chief Officer raised the issue of a reduction in the service along Well Street. Chris Almond felt that this could be resolved by sending the 93 bus down Kingsfield Road. The 7a and 9 would use St John's Road. Chris Almond would propose this idea to Staffordshire County Council, and hope to implement the change in January 2017.

Councillor Jackson thanked Councillor McGuinness for the update, he asked if the Chief Officer would pass his contact details to the bus companies, as he did have some input at the County Council and may be able to ensure there were no hiccups with the proposed changes.

Councillor Jones thought that Councillor McGuinness had done a fantastic job.

Councillor Redfern felt there had been great dialogue, but thought that the suggestion of deliveries at night was unlikely to succeed; he was a bus user and was very grateful for the services at night.

Councillor Rogers also felt that there may be difficulties restricting the times of deliveries on the High Street.

Councillor Jones would like to remove cars from the High Street.

Councillor Jackson suggested that the Chief Officer feed the ideas and issues into the planned meeting with County Councillor Deaville.

48 UPDATE ON BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK MEETING

The Chief Officer spoke about the meeting held on 28 September 2016. There had been a positive turnout, interesting discussion with many creative ideas discussed; a number of attendees had offered to join the working group which would meet on Thursday 3 November 2016 from 6.00 pm, to flesh out some of the ideas. This would be reported at a future meeting.

Councillor Jones had attended the meeting and concurred that it had been positive. He would prefer that the area was not turned into a formal park, just kept in good order.

Councillor Sheldon noted that the site had very high status as a Grade One listed park and Biddulph should be proud of it.

49 TOWN DEAL UPDATE

Councillor Hall reported that there had been a more optimistic note about the meeting; representatives of Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Your Moorlands Housing had attended.

Councillor Jones noted that short notice of a meeting proved difficult for those who worked.

Councillor Redfern asked who the meeting was open to. Councillor Hall responded that the Chief Officer would look into the governance; however it was the County Council which called the meetings. Councillor Jones added that there was no motive to exclude.

Councillor Jackson noted that large meetings can become unwieldy; the Town Deal was trying to move forward. The current make up from Biddulph Town Council was Chairs and vice chairs of Committees, the two County Councillors, there was no debarring. He added that regeneration did not happen overnight, but he was more optimistic. He added that the meeting was bound by commercial confidentiality.

50 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Diversion of Vehicular Traffic

Birch Avenue

The length of Birch Avenue, between the junction of Newpool Road and Henley Avenue. The order will come into operation on 14 November and will be completed by 2 December 2016. Water main renewal.

Councillor Rogers noted that Birch Avenue had been closed that day.

Mow Lane

The length of Mow Lane, between the junctions with Congleton Road and Wedgewood Lane. The order will come into operation on 2 November and will be completed by 3 November 2016. Overhead structure works.

2 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Updates

- Business People are wanted for Safer Neighbourhood Panels to hold the Local Policing Team Commander to account and to look at wider criminal justice and community safety issues.
- New cyber Safe Staffordshire scheme. This scheme aims to raise awareness of cyber-crime and how people can protect themselves and their families online. More information is available on www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime

Councillor Harper said that the PCC did not exclude non-business people; Councillor Jackson noted that there was a shortage of business people in these groups.

Councillor Lawson reported on a rat infestation in the High Street; it had been reported to the District Council and was being managed.

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.

Signed Date