

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance:
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Harper

37.15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Jones
Councillor Nicosia

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Hart declared an interest in any matters concerning the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan to do with site specifics. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Disclosable Interests. None were declared

39. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 16 August 2016.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 August 2016.

40. HIGHWAYS UPDATE INC. HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

County Councillor Mark Deaville would be in Biddulph for a walk round with the Chief Officer and interested parties, it was hoped that this would take place on 10 October 2016. The Chief Officer reminded Councillors that feedback was being sought from town and parish councils in relation to the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, and Councillors were invited to pass feedback to the Chief Officer, to pass on to Councillor Deaville.

41. DECISION ON CLOCK AT ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

The Chief Officer asked if more information was required or should the proposal to install an auto-winding device at St Lawrence's be taken forward. The Chief Officer had emailed Councillors with the details that had been requested, following the last General Purposes Committee meeting.

Councillor Hall proposed and Councillor Lawson seconded that the project should be taken forward. Agreed.

42. UPDATE FROM MEETING WITH WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE (REPORT ATTACHED)

Councillor Jackson felt it had been a useful meeting and had allayed fears of many; he expressed concern re words 'we have no plans to...' and would monitor the situation.

Councillor Jackson felt that progress with the proposed ambulance station at Princess Street was very vague. Councillor Salt reported that she had received an update from the manager at the fire station; the tender had now been secured and the building work would start soon.

Councillor Hart complemented Councillors for their questions at the meeting with the ambulance service representatives; which had been varied and searching.

43. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Officer reported that the long awaited Hearing Loop would be fitted in the Council Chamber on 18 October 2016. An additional loop would be fitted in the main hall on the same day.

1 Chairmanship Skills Training Course

A Chairmanship Skills training course has been arranged for Monday 17 October 2016. This course will also be suitable for committee chairmen / vice chairmen. The subjects being covered are:

- The Role of the Chairman
- Preparation for Meetings
- Agenda Management
- The Rules of Procedure
- Professional Conduct / Chairing Standards
- The Nolan Principles
- Members' Code of Conduct
- Bullying and Harassment
- The Role and Dealing with the Media

Date: Monday 17 October 2016

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Venue: Rudyard / Trentham Suite, Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2LP

Cost: £20.00 for the first delegate, £15.00 for the second and £10.00 for subsequent delegates from the same affiliated council. The prices are doubled for unaffiliated councils.

Councillor Jackson felt that it was outdated to refer to 'Chairman', rather than Chair. The SPCA should know this.

2 Utility Companies work on the highway

Information was requested by Councillor Chris Wood at the General Purposes meeting on 16 August 2016. Advice from the Highways department is as follows:

Utility Companies (Statutory Undertaker) have a legal right to work on the highway to access their apparatus in order to carry out maintenance/replacement work. This legal right extends to digging up recently resurfaced roads, in particular in the case of emergency works.

Whilst the Highway Authority is unable to refuse requests to excavate the highway to access the apparatus, they do have some control over the timing of the works and the temporary traffic management provision.

The County Council does not currently run a Permit Scheme whereby a Statutory Undertaker has to pay for a permit to work on the highway, therefore there are no charges applied when they are digging up the highway as part of their legally permitted works. However the following 'charges' can apply where appropriate:

- Fixed Penalty Notice – fines issued where there is non-compliance with the regulations for providing notices for works (poor quality information, late information etc.)
- Defects – where the specification required has not been met
- Samples – where we proactively sample inspect some of their works
- Section 74 – fines applied where we consider there is unreasonable occupation of the highway, whether over-running of work or long duration works

If there is a particular instance that has been a cause for concern, the Highways division should be made aware.

3 Diversion of Vehicular Traffic

Halls Road and Mow Lane

Vehicles prohibited from Halls Road- number 3 to the A527 junction, Mow Lane-number 10 to the A527 junction. The work will be completed on 11 October 2016.

Well Lane

Vehicles prohibited between the junctions with Marsh Green Road and Long Valley Road. Work should be completed between 4 October and 6 October 2016.

Newpool Road

Vehicles prohibited the length of Newpool Road between its junctions with Tower Hill Road and Lyneside Road. The work should be completed between 10 October and 18 November 2016.

4 Staffordshire Lighting Programme of Works

We have received an updated list from EON in relation to the renewal of street lighting, and likely timescales. This information is available from the Chief Officer, if required.

Councillors should also be aware that one of the Biddulph Town Council street lights will need to be replaced in the next financial year.

5 Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Safety Plan

A reminder that consultation has commenced on the development of the new Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Safety Plan (April 2017 – March 2020). Consultation will run until 16 October 2016.

6 Severn Trent Water

Work to install new operational valves on existing water pipes will take place at the following locations:

Ribble Drive (no 11 to junction), Torville Drive (no 20), Craigside (no 41), Congleton Road (no 27/29 and Fountain Court junction), Tunstall Road (no 32), St Johns Road (no 2 Knowle Road) and Lawton Street (south of junction with Lawton Crescent).

7 'Bite back' scheme

The England Illegal Money Lending Team is working with Moorlands Council and Staffordshire Police to deliver a "bite back" week against loan sharks.

There will be a week of action, commencing 17 October 2016.

Nationally, Illegal Money Lending Teams have secured more than 339 prosecutions for illegal money lending and related activity, leading to 225 years' worth of custodial sentences. They have written off over £63.5 million worth of illegal debt and helped over 27,500 people.

Biddulph Town Council has been asked to sign a Zero Tolerance Charter. More information on this will follow.

To report a loan shark:

Call the 24/7 confidential hotline 0300 555 2222

Text a report to 078600 22116

E-mail reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

Private message us on www.facebook.com/stoploansharksproject

Councillor Jackson fully endorsed the initiative, adding that it was really important. He requested that it should be added to the next agenda for a resolution.

8 Biddulph Grange Country Park meeting reminder

The stakeholder meeting to discuss a Heritage Lottery Grant application for the Biddulph Grange Country Park is on **Wednesday 28 September 2016 at 6pm** in the Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed Date