

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2017

The Chief Officer introduced the Deputy Mayor; The Deputy Mayor invited Rev'd Derek Balsdon to lead members in a time of prayer. The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jones
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley

77.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- PCSO Sherratt gave an update: a Biddulph Moor burglary suspect had been arrested; opportunity theft was on the rise and caution was advised. PCSO Sherratt thanked Officers of the Council for their support during his time working in Biddulph and mentioned the work of the 'Do It Club' which he ran with support from Councillors Harper and Lawson. PCSO Sherratt noted that during his time working in Biddulph he had raised £7,000 for the Dogs Trust and thanked everyone for their support. PCSO Rebecca Peake would be his replacement.

Councillor Jackson responded noting that there had been scepticism about the PCSO scheme when it began; PCSO Sherratt had done an excellent, wonderful job and Councillor Jackson thanked him on behalf of Labour group and urged him to keep in touch. Councillor Jones added his thanks noting that PCSO Sherratt had gone that extra mile and had left 'big shoes to fill'. Councillor Hall offered thanks from this Council which had received relevant information; PCSO Sherratt had transformed the role, and had the backing of the local community. Councillor Hart added that our PCSOs were 'at the top of the table'. PCSO Sherratt would be training new recruits. Councillor Sheldon gave a massive thank you to PCSO Sherratt, this was followed by a round of applause

- James Coates - Your Housing Group, Customer First Coordinator was invited to address the meeting. Your Housing was formed in 2012 with the merger of Arena and Harvest. There had been 27 different tenancy agreements to sort out, but they were slowly getting them in order, becoming a 'mean and lean' organisation which operated more efficiently.

Mr Coates noted that austerity had affected all housing associations but they were being more creative and commercial, aiming to help raise the standard of the stock and the quality of life for the tenants. The core values of Your Housing Group were: Pride, Passion, Creativity. He added that Your Housing Group was now on a strong footing for years to come.

Mr Coates had been in post since July 2016 and covered the North West region. His aim was to improve areas where Your Housing Group had concentrated housing stock. The building which previously housed Biddulph Resource and Information Centre had been refurbished and rebranded as the Learning Curve, the official opening would be held very soon. Mr Coates thanked Councillor Sheldon and Biddulph in Bloom; the group had worked on the area at the front of the building and given it a lift, this was much appreciated. The Learning Curve hosted a Work Club on Thursdays between 10 am and 12 noon run by Louise Harvey with Support Staffordshire. Members were invited to go and have a look round. The three Work Clubs had achieved 500 people back into work.

Mr Coates had seen the power of the Princes Trust where a fire cadet unit was being formed, and felt this would be important at Biddulph Fire Station. Councillor Wood noted that a programme of fire cadets was a positive move.

Councillor Jackson had been a board member of Your Moorlands for 9 years and felt that since the changeover, conversation had gone backwards. Your Housing reported to SMDC twice a year and he felt there should be a better way for Councillors to interact with Your Housing. At times Councillors were aware of issues before Your Housing. Councillors needed to know what Your Housing customers could expect: would there be cuts to the service?

Mr Coates responded that these were tough times; Your Housing was considering creative and innovative ways to make savings, on the positive side everything was now under one name with a sound financial structure.

Councillor Hart responded that it was nice to see James in this position, as a former Portfolio Holder he had found that all the people he used to deal with had gone. Mr Coates had some good ideas, but new contacts must be made. Councillor Hart felt that contact had been lost to the detriment of Your Housing tenants; he felt that the District Council needed to understand the changes to the structure

Councillor Wood thanked Mr Coates on behalf of Town Council. The Chief Officer would circulate Mr Coates' details to Councillors.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom, Councillor Hart in the Local Plan site specifics
- b) Other Disclosable Interests none were declared.

79. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Harper
Councillor Whilding

80. MINUTES

- a It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21 March 2017
- b The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 March.
- c The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21 March 2017 were approved and signed.
- d The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2017 were received.
- e It was Resolved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2017.

81. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR WOOD (DEPUTY MAYOR) To consider the Town Council's response to the Department for Rural Affairs consultation on fly-tipping and potential penalties, and local authorities' charges for DIY waste.

Councillor Wood gave a brief introduction; there were two issues to consider.

He proposed that this Council sends a formal response to the consultation, noting that the County Council position was at odds with that of the government. He noted that the Council in Surrey or East Sussex was now rescinding the charges.

Councillor Hart was only too happy to add the item to an agenda for the General Purposes Committee, where the information put out by DEFRA could be reviewed.

Councillor Jackson noted that the DEFRA document was 82 pages long and was 'full of good stuff'; he felt that charging for disposal of household DIY waste was 'back door' charging. He proposed that the County Council should scrap the charge and payback residents. The Government was at odds with the County Council, this was seconded by Councillor Rushton.

Councillor Jones proposed that the issue is debated properly by the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Hart proposed the June meeting; this was seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

Councillor Lovatt noted that the consultation was in circulation at the same time as massive problems were being suffered locally. She thought this was ridiculous. There were clear instructions that this was not what ministers wanted. Councillor Lovatt supported Councillor Jackson's proposal that the matter is discussed in June and in the meantime the charges should be scrapped and a letter sent.

Councillor Hall noted that general DIY waste was not charged, only building rubble and tyres. There should be a clearer view. The County Council was in a difficult situation. One solution was closing household waste and recycling plants. Charging

was an alternative way to maintain plants, this Council should exercise caution in its approach.

Councillor Jackson proposed that a letter should be sent asking the County Council to rescind the charges and payback residents, a vote was taken; 4 were in favour and 7 were against, 3 abstained.

The item would be added to the agenda for discussion at the June meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

82. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

Roy Beech (Contractors) Ltd work at Springfield Road. Carry out work as per tender, removal of trees, tree protection and levelling of grounds (Hydro seeding invoice to follow on completion of work) Work completed 2017-18	58914.10
---	----------

For works first half of 2017-18 ADB Garden Care burial ground contract grass cutting for work carried out in the first of 2017-18 season	9900.00
---	---------

Pointon's Plan Centre – removal of Storm Doris damaged trees April 2016 In line with guidance form SMDC Garden of Tranquillity (Bateman Walk) at Burial grounds	1120.00
---	---------

SMDC – charge for 3 waste containers and collection of waste and recycling at the Town Burial Ground 2017-8	3593.49
--	---------

Staffs Pension Fund	1333.29
Salaries	4377.85
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 May 2017	1426.99

Expenditure below £500

Brian Carter – Woodhouse gates	60.00
--------------------------------	-------

Heads (Congleton) Ltd 2 adverts for Artisan Market	240.00
Market Imprest – stall construction	160.00

SMDC – lease of land at Congleton Road Allotment site	90.00
---	-------

Credit card payment to safety site for 2 x pairs safety footwear - Artisan Market	27.90
Credit card payment to e buyer for HDMI Monitor - E&PO	84.96
Credit card payment to Amazon for sack truck – Artisan Market (£8 to be refunded as truck damaged on delivery)	28.00

Petty cash	25.80
Market Imprest – stall construction	160.00

Bourne International – key ring torches 50 blue, 50 purple	129.60
Sarah Haydon- travel SPCA training	22.95
Pointon’s Plant Centre – prune small limes in burial ground	250.00
D Allcock – Lengthsman work	360.00

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed Date.....