

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018**

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; Rev'd Derek Balsdon led a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

### **PRESENT**

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

### **104.17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The meeting to adjourn for up to 20 minutes (Standing Order 1d-f) to allow for public participation. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Mayor.*

*Members of the public wishing to raise issues which are not on the Agenda should notify the Chief Officer five working days before the meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.*

#### **○ Neil Sherratt, 'Toast 2 Roast'- an overview of the service provided**

Mr Sherratt had taken over the former BRIC café and was still offering 'meals on wheels' – a nutritious hot meal seven days a week. He had drivers in place and wanted to increase the volume of people receiving the meals. He asked Councillors to inform their constituents of the service, which covered all five wards in the town.

Mr Sherratt felt that he had a corporate social responsibility for the area around the St John's Road complex; he wanted it to become the central hub for the community. He hoped to arrange a litter pick and was looking for volunteers to set up a weekly social dining group.

Councillor Sheldon applauded the progress, it was wonderful news

Councillor Jackson wished Mr Sherratt all the best with his endeavours; a 'meals on wheels' service was needed.

Councillor Jones thought it was great doing it as a business and a social service as well; he asked what radius was covered. Mr Sherratt responded that he covered from Biddulph Moor to Mow Cop. Councillor Jones responded that if there was anything this Council could do to help, he must ask.

Councillor Hawley suggested using the care services based in Biddulph and to advertise with them. Mr Sherratt had been to see them; they were happy to talk but nothing further had come from it, they did not seem to want to engage. Mr Sherratt had also arranged a 1,000 leaflet drop.

Councillor Hart congratulated Mr Sherratt for taking on the facility; there were others providing the service, but a choice was better for people. It was rare to find a private enterprise with a conscience.

Mr Sherratt reported that it had taken 15 months of discussion with Moorlands Housing to get café open.

Councillor Harper suggested that the Chief Officer pass Mr Sherratt's contact information to Councillors. This was agreed.

Councillor Lawson noted that the County Council had a fund to kick-off and keep small businesses running; he suggested that Mr Sherratt contact County Councillor Keith Flunder.

- **Mrs Pace - parking charges on Wharf Road**

Mrs Lynsey Pace had moved to Biddulph from Cannock five years previously; her husband was Deputy Head at James Bateman Junior high School. She was a full-time HR manager and surprised that charges had been increased on Wharf Road car park. Mrs Pace was disappointed to have to pay to go to the doctors and library.

Mrs Pace noted that other small towns e.g. Smallthorne and Tunstall did not charge and wondered if the charging could be the reason people were not coming to Biddulph to shop.

Councillor Rogers said he could talk for hours about 'pay and display' parking not being good for trade; he felt that 2 hours free parking would promote this town. He noted that there was a lull in the shop in which he worked, before 3.30pm. When parking was free there was a notable increase in trade.

Councillor Salt thought it was a real shame that this town did not have free car parking. District Councillors should make a case for our town as its own entity, with its own issues; Biddulph needed two hours free.

Councillor Jackson gave a brief history of the process. Charges for parking were introduced in Leek as traders had wanted traffic management, as workers were parking all day leaving no space for shoppers. Cheadle had brought in charges as people were parking three cars and using one car to visit nearby Alton Towers. Charging had been brought to Biddulph as Councillors in other towns had felt it was unfair. The Urban District Council had put that car park in for the people of the town. A 20p charge was imposed to start and it had increased last year and again this year. Councillor Jackson had tried to get a one hour slot in Biddulph.

Councillor Lawson agreed with Councillor Jackson adding that in Macclesfield it cost £1.10 per hour to park.

Councillor Nicosia felt there needed to be a change; the issue was how to go about it.

Councillor Hall suggested that members could send ideas and notes to the Chief Officer, who would send them to the District Council in time for budget setting next year.

Councillor Jones noted that the Portfolio Holder at the District Council had said on budget setting day that parking charges would be reviewed; perhaps a reminder should be given.

Councillor Salt asked Mrs Pace if she would consider standing for Council.

Councillor Wood asked for parking concession to be on the General Purposes Committee agenda to formalise a resolution to take from the Town Council to the District Council with cross party support. All agreed.

Councillor Jones supported the proposal, but cautioned that the information should not be left until budget night' this could be added as an item for the scrutiny committee to consider.

Councillor Jackson noted that the consensus must hold at SMDC; Councillors from other areas would not be supportive.

Councillor Lovatt agreed, but added that Councillors here in Biddulph voted one way, but at District Council meetings voted the other way; to her, that was the biggest thing, if Councillors were committed they must follow it through.

Councillor Rogers added that if 'pay and display' was introduced at the Leisure Centre car park, it would affect its trade.

Councillor Hart noted that it would be difficult to get charges out of the budget once they were in.

○ **Inspector Mark Thorley - Police provision in Biddulph**

Inspector Mark Thorley spoke about Anti-Social Behaviour; it had been a thorn in his side. The reduction showed in the figures and was a credit to the PCSOs who worked in Biddulph. The Community Safety Partnership had been most effective. The Criminal Justice system was the last result and used as a deterrent.

Councillor Salt would be grateful for the data and figures which relate to Biddulph. Inspector Thorley advised her to contact Sgt Slinn.

Councillor Jackson asked if would be possible to have as many Officers on duty as there were Police cars on the car park. Inspector Thorley replied that there would be significant changes on 4 June 2018 in the north of the county; all response personnel in the north of the county would work from Hanley police station. There would be an additional 13 PCSOs in the area. A resolution centre would take over some of the work and could take statements over the phone. There would be a Custody Investigation Team (CIT) based at Hanley, meaning that when a Response Team carried out an arrest, this would be passed to the CIT, and the Response Team would be back out on patrol.

The Response Team would begin work at 7.00am in Hanley; there would be three deployment teams based in Biddulph Cheadle and Leek, with the expectation that they would be 'out and about'.

The Neighbourhood Team would begin work at 7.00am and pick up calls, finishing at midnight, or until 3.00am Saturday to Sunday

Councillor Rogers noted that keys that had been found could not be handed in at Biddulph, the nearest place was Longton.

Inspector Thorley noted that budget cuts and digital advances were behind the changes.

Councillor Lawson noted that of the CCTV cameras in Biddulph, three were not working and two had not been serviced. Inspector Thorley said that this was an SMDC issue and not Staffordshire Police; the cameras were monitored in Chapel-en-le-Frith, adding that modern cameras could be movement activated.

Councillor Lovatt asked for more information about these changes this was a lot to take in. Inspector Thorley would send it as soon as it was available.

Councillor Jones asked if Biddulph would be a base for PCSOs; Inspector Thorley replied that there would be Neighbourhood Police Officers on duty too.

Councillor Jones asked if there would be a police presence at neighbourhood events. Inspector Thorley replied that he did not have the staff to cover every event; there would be some cover for Remembrance Sunday as it was a special event. Dedicating staff to community events would affect risk assessments if the Officers had to be pulled out.

Councillor Salt asked a number of questions:

1. Will there be one Police car? Inspector Thorley confirmed that there would be.
2. How many Neighbourhood Officers will be based in Biddulph? Inspector Thorley confirmed there would be six Police officers for the Moorlands, therefore six for Biddulph. There would be the same number of PCSOs- 2 or 3 per shift.
3. Could there be a woman digital Police Officer?

Councillor Sheldon noted that the CCTV cameras did work in Biddulph. She was a great believer in restorative justice and felt that it was not used to the best advantage. Inspector Thorley replied that both victim and perpetrator need to consent.

Councillor Harper asked when this arrangement would be reassessed. Inspector Thorley replied that it was constantly monitored.

Councillor Wood thanked Inspector Thorley, adding that Biddulph was getting less and less for the increase in Council Tax. This would leave the town with no police presence after midnight.

Councillor Jackson asked if this would make it easier for the Police to move in with their new partners. Inspector Thorley replied that more so than ever the Town Hall was the right place to work with partners in the same location.

## **105. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Rushton  
Councillor Swift

## **106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: Minute 109 - Councillor Nicosia was a Governor at James Bateman Junior High School; Councillor Salt was the Mother of a pupil at James Bateman Junior High School.

## **107. MINUTES**

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 20 March 2018 were approved and signed.
- b) The Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 20 March 2018 were approved. Councillor Jackson wished to query an item; it was agreed that this would be discussed at a reconvened meeting of the Town Council, to follow the end of General Purposes Committee meeting.
- c) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20 March 2018 were received.
- d) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 April 2018 were received.
- e) The Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 10 April 2018 were received.

## **108. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported that Mr John Salt, Treasurer of Biddulph Sports Council for over 30 years had died recently; he had been a stalwart for sport in the town.

The Mayor had attended the Moorlands Sports Awards; BYCZ 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party; the Troll Run and a Charity Football match.

The Mayor thanked the Biddulph Running Club which had raised £1900 towards the Mayor's Charities at the recent 'Knype Pool' race.

Councillor Wood reminded members that the Mayor's Civic Ball would be held on Friday 27 April 2018, 7pm for 7.30 pm; tickets were still available.

## **109. TO RECEIVE THE LETTER FROM JAMES BATEMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN RELATION TO THE CONSULTATION TO BECOME PART OF AN EXISTING MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST (MAT)**

Councillor Nicosia reported that consultation had gone out to parents. There had been 16 replies, mostly positive. This would be a collaborative effort going forwards with positive benefits for pupils. The Mayor wished the school all the best with the new arrangements.

**110. TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE THAT A WORKING GROUP IS SET UP TO CONSIDER A NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, WITH A VIEW TO STARTING IN MAY 2019.**

**COUNCILLORS TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS WORKING GROUP, TO MEET IN MAY 2018.**

The Chief Officer reported that the Human Resources Committee felt that a group should be formed to progress this further.

Councillor Jones supported this and wished to be on the Working Group. Councillor Salt asked that the meetings be staggered. Councillor Hall agreed with the staggering.

Councillor Hart added that it was the feeling of the Human Resources Committee that this work should encompass as many participants from different committees.

It was agreed that the Working Group should be made up of Councillors Jones, Salt, Hall, Hart, Hawley, Davies, Jackson and the Mayor and Deputy.

This was agreed.

**111. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE**

**a) The following accounts were approved for payment:**

**Expenditure in excess of £500**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <u>Urban Vision</u>  | 3900.00 |
| Neighbourhood Plan support                                     |         |
| Community engagement   |         |
| Project Plan General support and advice                        |         |
| Plan development   |         |
| <br>   |         |
| <u>Protech Electrical Limited</u>                              | 3072.00 |
| 640 LED replacement lamps for Christmas lights in four colours |         |
| <br>   |         |
| <u>Apex Market Stalls Limited</u>                              | 502.80  |
| 32 plywood stall tables for Artisan Market                     |         |

**Expenditure below £500**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <u>SMDC</u>  | 96.00  |
| Provision of litter bins and clean up after Christmas Lights switch on |        |
| <u>Npower</u>  | 139.21 |
| Christmas lighting unmetred supply                                     |        |
| April 2017 to March 2018   |        |
| <br>   |        |
| <u>RGS</u>   | 280.00 |
| Lengthsman work - 180.00   |        |
| Clean market gazebos - 100.00  |        |
| <u>City B Group</u>  |        |
| 1 gazebo with canopy for Artisan Market                                | 354.00 |
| <u>Market imprest</u>  | 180.00 |
| Stall construction at Artisan Market                                   |        |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <u>Royal Mail Group Ltd</u>                          | 1.26   |
| Postage for Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires        |        |
| <u>Heads (Congleton) Ltd</u>                         | 144.00 |
| Advertising for Volunteer Event 6 April 2018         |        |
| <u>Heads (Congleton) Ltd</u>                         | 240.00 |
| Advertising of Artisan market and of Volunteer event |        |
| <u>ICCM</u>  | 90.00  |
| Annual Corporate Membership                          |        |
| Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management     |        |
| <u>Tidysite Skip Services Ltd</u>                    | 20.10  |
| 1100 litre bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground            |        |
| <u>Brian Carter</u>                                  | 60.00  |
| Un/lock Woodhouse Burial Ground gates                |        |
| <u>Pedley's</u>                                      | 52.35  |
| 15 watering cans for the burial grounds              |        |
| <u>Barry Harrison</u>                                | 18.87  |
| 3 taps for Park Lane Allotment site                  |        |
| <u>Smith of Derby</u>                                | 229.20 |
| Service visit for clock at Biddulph Town Hall        |        |
| <u>S Haydon</u>                                      | 69.43  |
| Travel SLCC event at Doxey                           |        |
| Travel and parking audit training at Stafford        |        |
| Travel Dementia Champion training at Crewe           |        |
| <b><u>Credit card payments</u></b>                   |        |
| <u>Vistaprint</u>                                    | 116.98 |
| Town Council roller banner                           |        |
| <u>Gov.uk</u>  | 25.00  |
| Basic DBS check for S Haydon                         |        |
| <u>Shutterstock</u>                                  | 19.00  |
| Monthly payment for downloadable date                |        |

**b) Supplementary accounts were be tabled and approved for payment**

**Expenditure in excess of £500**

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Salaries                   | 4786.43 |
| HMRC to be paid 1 May 2018 | 1665.14 |
| Staffs Pension Fund        | 1802.03 |

**Expenditure below £500**

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Petty cash      | 41.99  |
| Shaw and Sons   | 234.00 |
| Burial register |        |
| RGS             | 81.00  |
| Lengthsman work |        |

The Mayor proposed that the following item was discussed after the meeting of the General Purposes Committee. This was agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8.30 pm

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

The meeting resumed at 9.10 pm

*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."*

Signed ..... Date .....