

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2016

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor invited Father Julian Green to lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jones
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

46.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andrew Spencer of Heart of the Valley was invited to address the meeting. The business opened in July 2016 offering adult day care and is located in what was the right hand side at the old surgery on Lawton Street. Local people had worked on the conversion of the building, and fixtures and fittings had also been sourced locally. The rooms had been redecorated in sensory colours appropriate to the activity.

Mr Spencer explained that with an aging population and the closure of council funded places he had thought this would be a viable project. The nearest day care centre is in Newcastle under Lyme. However, the building was not being fully utilised as a community hub.

The Mayor suggested that Councillors could signpost groups to use facility. Mr Spencer said he would be happy to source equipment to accommodate specific needs.

Councillor Rogers confirmed that it was a fantastic facility, but wondered if they would have a bigger turnaround if costs were lowered. Mr Spencer replied that this had been taken on board and the costs were now a flat rate £6.95 per hour for a prestige/premier service. A three course meal was £5 per head.

Councillor Jackson was amazed that he didn't know about the centre, and wondered if it had been advertised well as there was a need for that type of facility following

the closure of the Day Centre in Princess Street. He suggested that Mr Spencer contact Age Concern and Jill Norman of Support Staffordshire, who had recently informed Councillors of a new mini bus that would be available to local people and was fitted with lift; Ross Podyma is also running a project on Biddulph East with older people. Councillor Jackson thought that the centre should be a success and well used.

Councillor Hart thought it was nice that the old well known building was being used; he would like to go round and look at the facility. He was pleased that items had been sourced locally.

Councillor Rushton asked if there had been an Open Day. Mr Spencer confirmed that there had been 2 in July and 1 in September. They had recently advertised a great Christmas free lunch offer on Friday 16 December 2016.

Councillor Sheldon applauded the use of local items and wondered if a relaunch was the answer. Shops in Kingsfield Road could be leafletted and Councillors invited.

Councillor Lawson had not heard of the facility and thought it was good that we now knew about it.

Councillor Rogers suggested advertising in Congleton too.

Mr Spencer would forward Heart of the Valley details to the Chief Officer for distribution.

The Mayor thanked Mr Spencer for stepping in at the last minute; as Mrs Katy Spencer had been detained at home.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom; Councillor Hart Local Plan residential site specifics in Biddulph; Councillors Davies and Rogers – expenses; Councillor Redfern planning declaration was still valid.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia

49. MINUTES

- a) It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15 November 2016. Reference Minute 43 Councillor Hawley asked that the signed policy and guidance notes are made available on the website. The Chief Officer confirmed that this would be the case.

- b The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 November 2016 were received. Reference Minute 58 Councillor Jackson asked for the wording 'by chance' to be removed. He had arranged to meet with Glendale to discuss the future maintenance of the site.
- c The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2016 were received. Reference SMD/2016/0672 Councillor Redfern had declared an interest in this application.
- d The Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2016 were received.
- e It was Resolved to receive the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee Meeting held on 29 November 2016. It was noted that the policies had been approved.

50. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a The Mayor read a letter that had arrived via one of the Youth Advisors that afternoon. The charity that run Sunnydays playgroup (based in rooms at Knypersley First School) was holding an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 15 December 2016; the letter asked for Councillors to attend. Knypersley First School and playgroup staff had been given notice, and parents had been informed that the playgroup would close on 16 December 2016. The letter expressed concern that the EGM should have been held before notices were given.

The Mayor encouraged fellow Councillors to attend the meeting if at all possible and asked them to be aware of the distinction between playgroups. Some, like Sunnydays, are charities run by volunteers, others are businesses in the private sector.

Councillor Jackson had heard of the situation the previous week as one of his grandchildren attended Sunnydays; he had contacted the County Council and Officers were trying to find out what was happening.

Councillor Harper asked where the EGM was to be held; the Chief Officer would enquire and circulate to members,

- b The Mayor thanked all the volunteers at both the Biddulph Town and Biddulph Moor lights switch on events – those who had made it happen.
- c The Mayors Charity to date had raised just under £1,000; there would be a raffle following the evening's meetings.

51. YOUTH ADVISOR MEETING REPORT

The Chief Officer reported on the meeting.

The young people gave positive feedback about the Christmas Lights Switch-on, but thought that smaller children would have liked to see more of Santa. Regarding the land at Station Road, young people liked the idea of a sculpture, possibly a flower or a fountain using a large watering can, and a small paddling pool. Youth Advisors were excited about the refit of the Town Hall. The Chief Officer talked about the

suggestion of a crossing on Wharf Road and the impact if South View were to become one way.

52. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following account was paid prior to the meeting

V Brown – Events Director	787.92
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market imprest – for stall construction	160.00
Brian Carter – Woodhouse gates	40.00
SMDC – election recharge 2 nd payment	5016.03
Biddulph in Bloom grant 3 rd payment	5750.00
EBM Printers – receipt books	66.00
EBM Printers – 500 calendars	1196.40
Protech Electrical Limited - install Christmas Lights	10,917.20
Protech Electrical Limited – remove Christmas Lights	6922.72
AJ Environmental – mole treatment in burial ground	145.00
N and J Tree Services Limited – tree work in section L	993.60
Petty cash	29.25
J Gaunt – rope for barriers at switch on	21.96
V Brown – reimburse for Argos Voucher – shop window competition	25.00
W Rogers – fuel for generator – switch on	15.00
W Rogers – part for generator – switch on	53.43
J Davies – refreshments for switch on	51.20
M and H Pharma rope lights for shops	662.28
M and H Pharma – snow machine for switch on	79.98
V Brown – more lantern materials - switch on	64.83
W Rogers – travel	38.70
Staffs Pension Fund	1333.29
Salaries	3546.77
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 September 2016	1426.99
M and H Pharma Ltd – lights Biddulph Moor shops, extension cable and ties	109.34
D Allcock Lengthsman work during November and December - 200.00	
Skip at Woodhouse Burial Ground – 180.00	380.00

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed Date.....