

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2017

The Town Crier introduced the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer, the Town Crier lead a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor
Councillor Wood
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding

65.17 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.

No requests had been made.

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Court
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Walley

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests

68. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21 November 2017 were approved and signed.
- b) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 November 2017 were received.
- c) The Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 4 December 2017 were approved and signed

Councillor Salt referred to the committee structure consultation and felt that proposing to hold Governance Committee meetings at 3.30 pm would exclude people who worked. She would have to take unpaid leave; this was not possible. This proposal erected a barrier, excluding people of working age who could not attend.

Councillor Wood appreciated the views which would be fed into the meeting of the HR Committee to be held in January 2018.

Councillor Jackson agreed, adding that younger people were encouraged to take part and then barriers were erected.

Councillor Hall noted this would be part of the consultation; consideration should also be given to the workload of Officers.

Councillor Hart added that this had been requested and was now out for consultation. Consideration must be given to the amount of time the staff work in the evenings; there had not been a consideration of the committee structure for many years.

Councillor Wood felt there should be a balance. This was a blank canvas; there was a new structure on the table, all comments would be fed in.

Councillor Salt suggested that meetings could be alternated and quoted the 2010 Equal Opportunities Act in relation to disadvantage of people of a certain age.

- d) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 December 2017 were received.
- e) The Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 5 December 2017 were received. Councillor Swift thanked members for their good wishes and support; his wife was recovering and had been transferred to Bradwell Hospital. Councillor Wood passed on hopes for a speedy recovery.

69. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The Mayor had attended the Tesco Toy Run with other local Mayors; 3 sacks of toys had been donated for children in the Biddulph area. He added that if anyone knew of a family suffering hardship, to let him or the Green Tree House know.
- b) The Mayor had attended a number of functions, but had postponed the Rock n Roll evening, due to inclement weather and lack of advance ticket sales.
- c) The 2018 Troll Run would take place on 14 April, proceeds went to Charity; members were encouraged to publicise the event.

70. REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL- NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Chief Officer had hosted a group of young people representing the schools in Biddulph. A long list of things they would like to change in the town had been compiled at the positive meeting. The Minutes would be circulated on receipt. The next meeting would be a workshop where designs for the town centre would be constructed on the floor of the Council Chamber. This would enable the young people to be engaged with the Neighbourhood Plan process.

71. TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

The Events and Partnerships Officer's contract was reviewed at the Human Resources Committee meeting on 4 December 2017.

The Human Resources Committee considered that this position should be retained. The Town Council resolved on 21 February 2017 that following ongoing review, the position may be extended if it met the requirements of the Town Council. The Human Resources Committee considered that a permanent contract should be offered to the current postholder; for 22 hours per week beginning in March 2018.

This was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed.

72. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

Biddulph in Bloom - 3 rd of 4 grant awards	6250.00
Protech Electrical Limited	
Installation and removal of Christmas Lighting 67% of costs as agreed	
2 digital timers	11205.20
Installation and removal of Christmas Lighting 33% of costs as agreed	
Storage of decorations	6922.72
SMDC	
Service charge for accommodation at Biddulph Town Hall -	
Including claim for under recovery from previous year	22081.71
Election recharge 3 of 4 payments	5016.02

Expenditure below £500

Brian Carter un/lock gate at Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00
Heads (Congleton) Ltd - Advert for Lights Switch on event	180.00
- Advert for Moor switch on event	72.00
Councillor W Rogers - Gloves and fuel for generator at switch on event	12.99
Knypersley First School - Contribution to lantern parade materials	25.00
Knypersley Nursery - Contribution to lantern parade materials	25.00
Market imprest	180.00

Tidysite Skip Services Ltd - Empty bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground	19.80
Waterplus - Water used at Woodhouse Burial Ground	12.58
- Water used at the Town Burial Ground	45.58
Kalamazoo Direct - 4 packs of Minute Paper	220.22
Kent County Council - Photocopier charges July to October 2017	120.19
Sarah Haydon	
Picture hanging D-rings for Mayoral photographs	7.99
Wire for picture hanging	3.18
HDMI cable for new monitor for Events and Partnerships Officer	10.00
Refreshments for volunteers at lights switch on events	57.75
Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire advertising	6.88
Megaphone for use at events	9.15
Refreshments for Country Park event 29 November 2017	44.15
Refreshments for market stall erectors	12.00
J Hancock	
Materials for decorating lights switch on box	
Cling film to wind/waterproof ends of stalls at switch on event	19.80
J Gaunt - Postage stamps and posting of calendars as requested	23.58
<u>Credit card payments</u>	
Argos - Christmas Tree and decorations in foyer	47.98
Christmas tree lights	19.98
V safety - 53 hi vis vests for use at switch on and available for other events	60.42

b) Supplementary accounts

Expenditure in excess of £500

Salaries	4614.36
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 October	1646.32
Staffs Pension Fund	1750.87

Expenditure below £500

Chartered Institute of Housing Annual membership to December 2018	298.00
Biddulph Bowling and Recreation Club Burial ground hawthorn hedge replacement	147.00
Biddulph Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Supply poppies for Town Hall	50.00
Petty cash	37.50

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed Date