

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JULY 2016

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer. The Town Crier invited Rev'd Darren Fraser to lead members in a time of prayer.

PRESENT

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

9.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Alan Holdsworth was invited to address the meeting about traffic flow on the High Street.

'Good Evening

I would like to talk about traffic flow through the High Street.

Judging by the numerous letter and comments recently in the local papers, many seem to want the so-called *Temporary* Bus Stop at B&M Bargains on the High Street to be removed.

There has even been a letter recently in the Chronicle to say *Buses should Not be allowed to use the High Street At All* and negotiate round the town via the by-pass. However I have a very simple answer to this whole problem.

Buses should take people to and from the town centre.

And there have been two very good letters in last week's Chronicle from women who presumably do use the buses.

Therefore:

The High Street between King Street and Well Street should *be No Entry for private cars and motor bikes*. Access only for Buses, Blue Badge Holders and Taxis.

Drivers would not be disadvantaged as they would have access to the town car parks from Wharf Road, the North end of High Street, also King Street and South View.
So, Job Done.

No Congestion.

No need for traffic wardens.

A Safer environment for pedestrians.

And No Buses blocking traffic on Wharf Road at the Home Bargains Bus Stop because from personal observation that really is an accident waiting to happen.

Thank you for your time'

The Mayor thanked Mr Holdsworth; there were no other comments.

10. 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.

11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley

12. MINUTES

- a) It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21 June 2016. Councillors Walley, Lovatt and Jackson were members of the Sports Council.
- b) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 June 2016 were received. Minute 9 Councillor Lovatt asked for an Hearing Loop update. It was noted that SMDC had a budget of £10,000 for the work. The Chief Officer would ask for tighter timescales
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2016 were received. Councillor Rushton had sent apologies.
- d) The Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2016 were received.

13. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had held a reception for students from Fusignano and had received a gift on behalf of the town of a white ceramic plaque – a replica of the 1660 Madonna and Child which is housed in the Museo Civico San Rocco in the town.

A letter had been received from PCSO Sherratt thanking Councillors who had sponsored his recent 24 hour ride; raising £830 for Dogs Trust.

The Mayor's Cadet would be Flt Sgt Martinez. He is at camp at the moment, but will accompany the Mayor to Civic events.

The Mayor thanked fellow Councillors for their support at her recent Civic Service. The Mayor noted that at the Festival Service held at St Lawrence's Church, the Lord Lieutenant had said that Biddulph was a very special place and managed to draw talent out of its people. The Mayor noted that at the Biddulph in Bloom judging day, the judges had said that Biddulph people did not know how special they were. The Mayor felt that they did.

Biddulph would host The British Town Crier Championship on Saturday 23 July 2016.

The Mayor asked if a letter could be sent to Rev'd Trevor Raaff, the Curate of St Lawrence's Church to wish him and his family well as he takes up his new post as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Linby cum Papplewick in Nottinghamshire.

The Biddulph Youth and Community Zone would be holding first birthday celebrations on Friday 22 July 2016 from 6.00 pm

14. YOUTH ADVISOR MEETING REPORT

The Chief Officer reported that the meeting had been cancelled as this was the last week of term and the young people had other commitments.

15. FAIRTRADE

It was **Resolved** that Biddulph Town Council supports the Fairtrade status held by Biddulph and the use of Fairtrade products, where applicable.

16. RASCISM AND HATE CRIMES

Councillor Lovatt reported that there had been discussion in the previous weeks about racism and hate crime. Councillor Lovatt had received letters from some East Ward residents and asked that this Council adopt the following:

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. We Biddulph Town condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We reassure all people living in Biddulph Town that they are valued members of our community."

The Mayor seconded this resolution and the vote was unanimous in support of adopting the resolution.

Councillor Salt hoped that we as a town would not tolerate hate crime. Councillor Davies noted that CAB had a programme to help sufferers. Councillor Wood fully supported the action. Councillor Jackson noted that there had been a five-fold rise nationally, and added that police do take these crimes seriously.

17. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

The following accounts were received for payment:

V Brown - Events Director	787.92
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market float – cash for stall construction	160.00
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
Petty cash	20.10
Credit card purchase – water boiler	39.99
Quarter rent for Event Director’s Room 8	175.00
Quarter rent for Moorland Road allotment	90.00
Biddulph Greenfingers – replacement cheque	1000.00
SLCC annual Membership	235.00
D Allcock - Lengthsman work	580.00
Staffs Pension Fund	1573.76
Salaries	4095.63
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 August 2016	1816.40
ADB Gardencare – remainder of first half of contract	3000.00

Signed Date.....

The meeting closed at 7.29 pm