

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2017

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; the Mayor invited Pastor Mark Holdcroft to lead a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting and there was a minute's silence as a mark of respect to those that had lost their lives in the recent terrorist attacks around Britain and the fire at Grenfell Tower.

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance
Councillor Flunder

8.17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests had been made.

9. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Court
Councillor Redfern

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom, Councillor Hart in the Local Plan residential site specifics in Biddulph. Councillor Rogers in the accounts as Treasurer of Biddulph Festival and in Minute 19 as a close personal friend of the former Events Director; Councillor Salt a supporter of Biddulph Twinning, BYCZ, Greenfingers and Biddulph Athletic; Councillor Nicosia, Aglow; Councillor Jones in anything with 'Biddulph Moor' at the beginning.

- b) Other Disclosable Interests. Councillor Hall is a member of Biddulph Rotary with Mr Deaville of Beech's, in relation to the accounts.

11. MINUTES

- a) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16 May 2017, proposed by Councillor Salt, seconded by Councillor Hart.
- b) It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 16 May 2017, proposed by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Hart.
- c) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 May 2017, proposed by Councillor Hart, seconded by Councillor Jones. Councillor Hart had been proposed as Chair by Councillor Hall.
- d) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 May 2017, proposed by Councillor Hawley, seconded by Councillor Jones.
- e) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 June 2017, proposed by Councillor Hawley, seconded by Councillor Lawson.
- f) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 12 June 2017, proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Hall. Councillor Nicosia had been present at that meeting.
- g) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 13 June 2017, proposed by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor Hart. Councillor Baddeley had sent apologies,
- h) It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee meeting held on 13 June 2017, proposed by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Jackson. Councillor Hawley had declared an interest in BMCA and left the room during the discussion. Councillor Nicosia clarified that Aglow GEMS project had been running for 15 years; and in Biddulph for the past 5 years under her leadership.

12. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had attended a number of functions. The Biddulph Moor Well dressing had been well attended. There had also been a 'ladsndads' presentation event and the Rotary Swimathon.

The Mayor read a letter from Biddulph U3A suggesting that Town Hall caretaking staff should be trained to use the lighting system. It was proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Lovatt that the District Council is contacted with the information and asked to arrange for the training. Councillor Hall noted that this matter was already in hand but had been delayed due to the current alterations work on the building.

The Mayor proposed that a letter is written to the emergency services in London for their efforts in the recent Grenfell Tower fire disaster, to convey this Council's thanks for their work in such harrowing circumstances, going above and beyond the call of duty; special mention would be made of the work of Red Watch, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson who asked that it be sent forthwith. This was agreed.

13. YOUTH ADVISORS MEETING REPORT

The meeting had been cancelled as it was transition day in Biddulph, where students from all the schools visited their future placement locations. Woodhouse Academy students are visiting the Council Chamber this week; three morning sessions have been arranged

14. STATEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JILL SALT- MEMBERSHIP OF THE LABOUR PARTY

"I have never made any secret of my socialist ideals to the public or to Councillors, I was perhaps a little naïve in thinking that I could work for the people of Biddulph without my socialist views creeping through. I feel that as an Independent, I am no longer being true to myself and find it difficult to express my true beliefs. Some may have noticed the Labour posters in my window, or me volunteering to help our local Labour parliamentary candidate deliver leaflets - I can't do this ethically as an independent Councillor. I promise that the interests of Biddulph people will always be at the forefront of my mind and I will work with all Councillors on their behalf, as I have been doing. However, I want to be a Labour member, I want to contribute to regional and national policy agendas and I cannot do those things as an independent Councillor."

This was received.

Councillor Jackson welcomed Councillor Salt to the Labour group on the Town Council and looked forward to working with her. She had shown in her two years as a Councillor, one as Mayor, to be a positive, effective and confident Councillor, bringing with her, youth and enthusiasm.

15. THANKS TO COUNCILLOR RUSHTON- BALLOON TRIBUTE

Councillor Salt wanted to acknowledge Councillor's Rushton who had recently organised the release of 22 balloons in memory of those who had died as a result of the Manchester Arena bomb. Councillor Rushton proposed that a letter is sent to the Residents Association of Grenfell Tower offering condolences, seconded by Councillor Wood, and agreed.

16. CONSIDERATION OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BEMERSLEY LIAISON COMMITTEE

A letter from Councillor Redfern was read to Councillors. He was offering his resignation as the Council's representative on the Bemersley Liaison Committee.

Councillor Jackson proposed Councillor Salt as replacement representative; this was seconded by Councillor Jones. Councillor Sheldon noted that she attends as a resident of the area. It was noted that Councillor Funder chaired the committee. Councillor Hall proposed that Councillor Hart also attends; this was seconded by Councillor Jones. It was agreed that if only one place was available Councillor Salt would attend, if permitted Councillor Hart would also attend.

Councillor Nicosia felt it beneficial to have two representatives, if one could not attend, the other could.

Councillor Hawley noted that the letter effectively gave permission for us to send as many representatives as we wanted.

17. CONSIDERATION OF BECOMING A DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE MEMBER

Information had been provided by Staffordshire Parish Council Association. It was noted that there would be no cost to this Council, it was just asking for support.

Councillor Jones noted that Dementia was a cruel illness which was not fully recognised or supported. He proposed that this Council becomes a Dementia Action Alliance Member; this was seconded by Councillor Rushton and agreed.

18. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

Kent County Council Colour copy charges and settlement charges for previous contract July – October 2017	582.65
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Expenditure under £500

Kent County Council – copier charges for January to April 2017	91.63
Staffordshire County Council – permit for amenity signing	100.00
Market Imprest – stall construction	160.00
SMDC premises licence for high street and town hall front	180.00

S Haydon – re-imburement of CiLCA course	
HR committee minute 38.15 - 2 December 2015	250.00
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association annual subscription	15.00
Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management annual fee	90.00

Ebm printers - 2 sheets labels for market dates	223.20
6x A1 maps for neighbourhood plan consultation	
N power – unmetred supply Christmas lights April – August 2016	30.97

Credit card payments

Mobile Phone for market use and top up	75.00
Accident and Incident Book	7.98
8 x safety hats for workers at Artisan Market	53.07
Masterplug outdoor cable and waterproof sockets	37.99
10 replacement Stall tarpaulins and 35 clips for artisan market	251.54
Replacement ladder Civic Committee March 2017 Minute 72	123.00

b) Supplementary accounts

Petty cash	39.81
Brian Carter un/lock gate at Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00
J Gaunt – travel to SLCC branch meeting in Burntwood	45.00
SLCC – annual membership	225.00

Expenditure in excess of £500

D Allcock –	
Lengthsman work mowing and strimming £405,	
Empty skip at town burial ground £144	549.00
Staffs Pension Fund	1940.71
Salaries	4307.15
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 July 2017	1469.58

Grants Awarded subject to acceptance of Finance Committee Minutes – Meeting 13 June 2017

Citizens Advice Staffordshire North and Stoke on Trent, Biddulph	25000.00
Biddulph in Bloom (awarded £25,000 to be paid in 4 parts)	6250.00
Biddulph Festival – Civic budget	5000.00
Support Staffordshire	400.00
Biddulph Moor Community 1 st Responders	700.00
Biddulph Lifeline	400.00
Biddulph Twinning Association	500.00
Biddulph Youth and Community Zone	1250.00
Biddulph Moor Community Association	500.00
Biddulph Moor Evergreen Club	50.00
Biddulph Ladies Afternoon Club	90.00
Biddulph Green Fingers Community Gardens	600.00
Biddulph and Proud	600.00
Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra	500.00
Knypersley Cricket Club	600.00
Knypersley Bowling and Recreational Club	600.00
Biddulph Bowling Club	600.00
Biddulph Athletic FC	200.00
The Troll Run	250.00
Nameless PCSO S Sherratt and Mr AK Harper	50.00
Aglow Generations Project 'Gems'	100.00
The Green Tree House	450.00
Knypersley Craft Club	100.00
1 st Biddulph Moor Rainbows	100.00
2 nd Biddulph Methodist Rainbows	200.00
1 st Brown Lees Brownies	100.00
Biddulph Trefoil Guild	100.00
1 st Biddulph Moor (Saracens) Scout Group	500.00

Councillor Harper requested that the Council's future role in Biddulph Lifeline be added to the GP agenda for meaningful discussion. Councillor Hart was happy to receive this for the July agenda.

c) End of year accounts and Annual Return

- i) The Bank Reconciliation, Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet were received.

- ii) It was proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Rushton to approve Section 1 of the Annual Return – the Annual Governance Statement. The assertions were read aloud. All were in agreement
- iii) It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Hart to approve and sign Section 2 of the Annual Return. All were in agreement

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Salt that the following item should be discussed following the close of the General Purposes Committee meeting. All were in agreement and the meeting of the Town Council was suspended at 7.40 pm

The meeting resumed at 9.06 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.”

The Hearing Loop was disabled as concern had been expressed about its range.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm

Signed Date.....