

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2017

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor; The Mayor invited Rev'd Nick Witham 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 Hart
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jones
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

69.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jonathon Mathers- Overview of the work of Douglas MacMillan

Mr Mathers gave an informative talk about the work of the hospice. He encouraged members to take and distribute leaflets about two fundraising events: a 5k run on 9 April 2017 and a 10, 50 or 110 mile bike ride to be held on 7 May 2017. Mr Mathers explained that every year 3,000 local people are helped by Douglas MacMillan.

Councillor Wood said it was a fantastic cause and he would run the 5k if every Councillor made a donation. Councillor Rogers confirmed that he would sponsor Councillor Wood.

Mr Mathers thanked everyone for their support.

Sheila Tunstall, Joan Mason, Rita Bellwood- Biddulph Community Volunteer Transport, update

The group had been running for thirty years and was not very well known; it had an office at the Volunteer Bureau on Tunstall Road which was open Mondays to Thursdays, between 10 and 12. This was run by 7 volunteers and 9 volunteer drivers. The contact number was 01782 511659.

260 people in the area had used the service in the last year, equating to 3082 journeys. Many hospitals were covered, locally and further afield. A contribution of £3.60 for a 3 mile journey, and £13.50 for a 22-24 journey was charged, in comparison a taxi to Royal Stoke University Hospital would cost about £25. People had said that it was comforting to know that there was someone to take them home after a hospital visit.

Councillor Jackson noted that the group of dedicated people was very busy and deserved a round of applause.

Councillor Jones suggested that the group apply for a grant from this Council.

Councillor McGuinness asked if the group had to pay parking charges. The representatives confirmed that they did, except at Macclesfield.

Councillor Sheldon added her congratulations that the group was still running after thirty years.

Councillor Hart suggested a letter of support be sent to the Royal Stoke University Hospital to support the group in its application for free parking. This was agreed.

Inspector Mark Thorley- LPT Moorlands, update

Insp. Thorley updated members in relation to the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the town. He took the matter seriously and was trying to get on top of it. The Section 35 notices had achieved some success and the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was out for consultation. PSPOs had been used with tremendous success in Blythe Bridge and Endon. Insp Thorley was satisfied that steps being taken were having a positive effect.

Crime rates had dropped since Insp. Thorley had been in post, but there was a slight rise in vehicle thefts.

Councillor Jones supported the police and thought they were doing a 'cracking job'; he asked why PSPOs were needed when the activities were already a crime, he rarely saw a police patrol on foot.

Insp. Thorley said PSPOs were just another tool in the box to gain control. He did not have the resources for foot patrols, but when the PSPO was in force he would be able to allocate staff accordingly. He had a finite resource and had to point it in the most appropriate direction.

Councillor Wood was frustrated but understood the problems, he asked for Insp. Thorley's views on CCTV and whether more cameras would be advantageous.

Insp. Thorley said that CCTV aids with identification of offenders, where police cannot be there in person.

Councillor Sheldon asked whether restorative justice schemes were still in operation. Insp. Thorley confirmed that Community Resolutions Notices were used.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Thorley for attending the meeting.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom Reference Minute 75; Councillor Rogers travel expenses.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Hart in the site specifics in the Local Plan; Councillor Lovatt in Minute 75b and also with Councillor Walley in being involved with Friends of Biddulph Valley Park.

71. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from Councillor Redfern.

72. MINUTES

- a It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21 February 2017
- b The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 February.
- c The Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 21 February 2017 were received.
- d The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2017 were received.
- e It was Resolved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2017.

73. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a The Mayor advertised an event to be held on 24 March 2017 at the Victoria Centre; a concert by pupils from 4 local schools and the Biddulph District Youth Orchestra. £5 on the door, all welcome.
- b A letter had been circulated about a meeting to be held on Thursday 30 March 2017 at 5.00 pm to discuss the anti-social behaviour in the town and how to tackle the issue. The Mayor had received confirmation that Heads of Biddulph High and James Bateman Junior High School would be attending along with Biddulph Police Sgt Slinn; Councillors would be most welcome.
- c The Police and Crime Commissioner had funding that Biddulph Town Council could apply for. The Mayor was considering putting in a bid to run activities such as a free pass to the Leisure Centre or a detached youth worker on Friday and Saturday evenings. The Mayor asked for support to put this bid together. Councillor Jackson suggested that the meeting on 30 March might help to put the bid together. Councillor Jones thought it was a good idea and should be discussed in more detail and voted on as part of the Civic Committee. Councillor Davies noted that the meeting on 30 March had arisen as a result of discussion at the Civic Committee and thanked the Mayor for acting so quickly; this was a wonderful initiative.
- d The Mayor hoped that one of the Fairtrade banners could be displayed in the new Town Hall reception once work has been completed.
- e The Mayor noted that this was the last meeting that she would Chair as she was on holiday at the time of the April meeting. She thanked Councillors for giving her this opportunity.

74. YOUTH ADVISOR MEETING REPORT

The Chief Officer noted that this had been a positive meeting and that representatives from three schools had attended, along with PCSO Sherratt and John Walton from the Fire Service.

Three issues had been discussed:

1) The Chief Officer and PCSO Sherratt talked about the PSPO that was currently out for consultation. The young people knew of the anti-social behaviour issues, but stated that no one had been into schools to explain the implications of the PSPO. They felt that young people didn't understand the seriousness of it.

2) The Chief Officer queried whether the young people thought it would be beneficial to get involved in the Great British Spring Clean. The young people couldn't identify any sites that they were concerned about, but felt this would be a positive initiative. There was discussion about the risks involved with fly tipping; a small bag can encourage more and becomes a problem.

3) The Town Council was turning its attention to the new council year and dates for future meetings. The Chief Officer asked whether the young people felt that this meeting could be done differently. The young people confirmed that they were happy to continue with the Youth Advisor meetings as they are; they found it a beneficial forum to raise issues.

The Mayor confirmed that she would be going into schools on 4 April to discuss issues in the town.

75. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a The following accounts were received for payment:

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| V Brown – Events Director (final payment) | 787.92 |
| Brian Carter – Woodhouse gates | 40.00 |
| Biddulph in Bloom – 4 of 4 payments | 5750.00 |
| Moorside Memorials – repairs following Storm Doris | 290.00 |
| Zurich Management Services Limited – training at Northwich | 36.00 |
| Zurich Management Services Limited – annual insurance | 1477.03 |
| J Gaunt – travel to SLCC branch meeting | 36.00 |
| W Rogers – travel to SPCA and Moorlands Assembly | 32.40 |
| Staffs Pension Fund | 1333.29 |
| Salaries | 3868.48 |
| Petty cash | 22.45 |
| Wharf Plumbing and Heating Supplies Ltd – tap at Park Lane allotment site | 6.98 |
| Kent County Council – copier rental | 582.65 |
| <u>The following to be paid on completion of the works</u> | |
| Iron Age Designs – balance for railings and kissing gate project | 5720.46 |

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| Mr G Booth – post tops for above project | 800.00 |
| HB Clews Ltd – path 3 at Biddulph Valley Way | 5220.00 |
| Smith of Derby - Automatic winder at St Lawrence’s Church | 4675.20 |
| Smith of Derby – Automatic restart unit at Knypersley Church Hall | 736.80 |

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| Credit card payment for 4 x pairs safety footwear (Artisan Market) | 57.55 |
| HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 April 2017 | 1426.99 |

The following to be paid on 1 April 2017

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| SMDC non domestic rate for burials grounds | 378.41 |
| Community Council of Staffordshire annual membership | 25.00 |
| Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – annual membership | 1188.00 |
| Communicorp – annual subscription to Local Councils Update | 75.00 |

b Local Government Pension Scheme

To receive Infolet 112 and approve the employer contributions payable from 1 April 2017 for the Local Government Pension scheme, for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

All were in favour of approval.

Due to the confidential nature of the next item it was agreed that meeting be adjourned at 7.52 pm and would reconvene following the meeting of the General Purposed Committee.