

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

The Town Crier introduced the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer, the Mayor invited Rev'd Derek Balsdon to lead a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

The Mayor proposed that a card is sent to Councillor Davies who was in hospital.

PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Wood
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

also in attendance Councillor Flunder

55.17 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.

56. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Davies
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

58. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 17 October 2017 were approved and signed.
- b) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17 October 2017 were received.
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 November 2017 were received. Councillor Salt had declared an interest
- d) The Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 14 November 2017 were received. Minute 60 Councillor Salt had attended a Twinning Association meeting; their first preference for the mosaic was inside the building, second was in the Rose Garden. Minute 64 Councillor Rogers noted that the Town Crier would be submitting a quote for his regalia to the next Civic Committee for consideration. The Chief Officer reported that the Twinning Association would like to display some of the memorabilia in other places around the town and would rotate the pieces. Consideration was being given to the value of these pieces and the insurance cover required.

59. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The Mayor had attended the Victoria Cross service at Stoke Minister and the Battle of Britain service at Leek.
- b) Remembrance Sunday – the Mayor thanked those who had organised the event, it went without a hitch.
- c) The Mayor and Mayoress had visited the twin town of Fusignano, hospitality had been first class. He presented a gift from Fusignano, a figurine.

The Mayor moved that standing orders be suspended; he invited the Town Crier to address the meeting. The Town Crier explained that Lady Maria is depicted in the figurine alongside himself. Lady Maria is a trademark of the sculptor who is as famous as Clarice Cliff. The Town Crier reported that the Twinning Committee had presented a silver plaque to the Sindaco, this would be a citizen of the year award.

Standing orders were reinstated.

- d) A date for your diary – 9 December 2017, a Mayor's Charity event. Tickets were on sale at Councils Connect and the Green Tree House, £10 a ticket, 'pie n peas' and Terrinova, bring your own drink.
- e) The Mayor had attended the Youth Voices Rotary event, he reported that the knowledge and confidence of the participants was something to behold

60. TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF YOUTH ADVISORS MEETINGS AND REPORT ON MEETING WITH THE BIDDULPH HEADS- CHIEF OFFICER

The Chief Officer had been invited to speak at the Partnership Trust Heads meeting. Heads felt that they would like Biddulph schools to link more effectively with the work of the Town Council and to be involved in community projects. It was suggested that the Town Council could host the schools council forum meetings which were attended by all

the schools in the Partnership Trust. Existing partners could also be invited to attend. The Chief Officer noted that this may be more effective engagement as there was a wider number of young people that attended and a mechanism in place for them to report back to their peers.

Councillor Harper thought this was good news and should be built on; he added that the Youth Advisor scheme had been hit and miss. Involving the younger children was good news, he warmly supported the proposal.

Councillor Wood had been involved in the Youth Parliament at Stoke-on-Trent City Council and felt that this was a positive step.

Councillor Hall asked if Our Lady of Grace was included. The Chief Officer responded that the school had been invited to participate in the Youth Advisor scheme, but had never attended. They could be invited to this meeting.

All were happy to progress with these new arrangements.

- 61. TO RESOLVE THAT THE MEETING DATES IN DECEMBER ARE AMENDED FROM THOSE SET OUT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL: Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday 5 December 2017 and Town Council to take place on Tuesday 12 December 2017.**

This was moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Wood; a vote was taken and all were in favour.

- 62. REVIEW OF COMMITTEES
Councillors to note that a review of Committee structures has commenced; recommendations to be presented to the Human Resources Committee in December 2017**

The Chief Officer gave a brief explanation that she had been looking at work flow ideas to recommend to the HR committee.

Councillor Salt felt that there was an under representation of women leading committees.

- 63. STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RIGHTS OF WAY CONSULTATION
To receive an update from Councillor Lovatt, Chair of the Footpaths Sub-Committee and to consider an appropriate response from the Town Council
Further information on the consultation can be found at:
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Rights-of-Way-Consultation.aspx>**

A draft letter had been tabled, which expressed disappointment with the consultation.

Councillor Lovatt reported that there were 156 rights of way in Biddulph and summarised the 'ABC' system:

Category A – in good condition with signs way marked, 5 of these were maintained every year.

Category B - sometimes in good condition with signs where they met roads, maintained once every 12 years

Category C – these had obstacles, barriers and no signs, these were maintained once every 20 years. This accounted for 84 of Biddulph's paths.

The full map of rights of way was available online. Councillor Lovatt encouraged members to look at the consultation and have their say.

Councillor Lovatt felt that this was another case of the County Council passing on its statutory duty. There was also a proposal that Town and Parish Councils liaise with landowners. Councillor Lovatt felt that Staffordshire County Council had the expertise and this would be an onerous task for Town and Parish Councils to take on.

64. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

Viking – office supplies including envelopes for Neighbourhood Plan	750.02
Colin Hibbert – decorate Council Chamber	575.00

Expenditure below £500

Motor Insurance for tractor – Artisan Market	117.03
Market imprest	180.00
Councillor Davies repairs to trailer Artisan Market 11.59	
Transformer for lights switch on 75.59	87.18

Brian Carter – lock and unlock Woodhouse Burial ground gates	40.00
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd - Empty waste skip at Woodhouse	19.80

Councillor Hawley – travel to SMDC Parish Association – Leek	9.00
Councillor Hawley – reimburse for Neighbourhood Plan prize winners	62.50
Royal Mail Group Ltd – license for Neighbourhood Plan	114.00

CJ Skelhorne – repair to Deputy Mayor pendant	245.00
S Haydon – refreshments for Remembrance Sunday	24.80
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – wreath for Remembrance Sunday	25.00

Churnet Valley Garden Furniture – 8 barrier posts and 40m rope	372.00
Landale Fencing – investigative work re drains in burial ground	180.00

Market imprest - Christmas Market stall construction	270.00
N power - Christmas Lights standing charge	16.56

SLCC – 2 books: Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing; Highways Law	59.05
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association - budget training	20.00

Credit card payments

Amazon - picture hanging wire for Mayoral photos	3.18
Amazon – picture hooks for Mayoral photos	7.99
Shutterstock 1 st monthly payment	19.00
e-buyer – monitor	88.95
Bill and Ben - skip at Park Lane Allotment site	195.00

b) Supplementary accounts (to be tabled)

Good News Publishing to deliver 7500 envelopes and questionnaires for Neighbourhood Plan	600.00
R Standell – hedge cutting at burial grounds	550.00
Salaries	4614.34
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 December	1646.32
Staffs Pension Fund	1750.87

Expenditure below £500

P and R Graphics – supply and fit 3 posts mounted rules in burial grounds	489.60
R Standell – Lengthsman work October/November	234.00
R Standell – re loading trailer for market following Remembrance Sunday	36.00
J Hancock – travel for Artisan market	7.20
J Hancock – Christmas tree decorations for foyer tree	19.00
J Gaunt – travel for Data Protection training	8.50
S Haydon – stationery supplies	27.44
petty cash	27.73
Mavis Hancock – reimburse for lantern supplies, switch on parade	25.00

The Mayor thanked Councillor Flunder for attending

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed Date