

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2016**

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor. The Mayor invited Rev'd Darren Fraser to lead members in a time of prayer. The Town Mayor opened the meeting

### **PRESENT**

The Mayor – Councillor Salt  
Councillor Davies  
Councillor Hall  
Councillor Harper  
Councillor Hawley  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Jackson  
Councillor Lawson  
Councillor McGuinness  
Councillor Redfern  
Councillor Rogers  
Councillor Rushton  
Councillor Sheldon  
Councillor Swift  
Councillor Walley  
Councillor Whilding

### **38.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Sergeant (Sgt) Slinn sent an update, which was read by the Mayor:

- The Police are supporting the loan shark operation running week commencing 17 October 2016.
- Three Biddulph males have been charged with burglary at the off-licence on St Johns Road and are due in court on 20 October 2016.
- There has been a focus in theft of tools from work vans in the north of the county and the Biddulph area is being targeted this week by the problem solving team. Please remind all residents not to leave tools in vehicles when not in use and overnight.

### **39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Rogers travel expenses
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared

### **40. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood  
Councillor Baddeley  
Councillor Court  
Councillor Hart

Councillor Lovatt  
Councillor Nicosia

#### **41. MINUTES**

- a It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 20 September 2016.
- b It Was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2016
- c The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20 September 2016 were received.
- d The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2016 were received.
- e The Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2016 were received.

#### **42. ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Nadeem Mahammed (England Illegal Money Lending Team), Victoria Ellis (SMDC) and Sgt Slinn (Staffordshire Police) were invited to address the meeting.

Nadeem Mahammed gave an update. His team are based in Birmingham but cover the whole country and aim to raise awareness of illegal money lending. The Biddulph area would receive special attention in the run up to Christmas. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) would fund the operation with money confiscated from loan sharks, who did not have FCA permission to operate.

Councillor Jackson noted that BRIC had identified a case of a loan shark operating in the area. It was also noted that Payday loan companies preyed on those with zero hour contracts, though this was legal.

Nadeem Mahammed explained that his team would signpost to other organisations where people could obtain emergency finance e.g. Staffordshire Credit Union, he then gave a brief explanation about credit unions, and noted that he would not signpost to pay day lenders.

Councillor McGuinness asked how willing victims were to come forward and report loan sharks. Nadeem Mahammed explained that loan sharks targeted vulnerable people who only came forward to report them when the violence escalated.

The Mayor was pleased to sign the agreement, with the support of the whole Council. Members present added their names to the large poster which would be displayed in Councils Connect.

The Mayor thanked Nadeem Mahammed; Victoria Ellis and Sgt Slinn for attending.

#### **43. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor had attended PCSO Sherratt's Dogs Trust event and praised him for the amount of effort he had put in to make sure it was a success. The Mayor also noted that PCSO Sherratt went 'above and beyond' for this town.

The Mayor would be hosting an 'Inspiring Young Women' event on 3 March 2017, for young women aged 12-14 from Biddulph.

The speakers would include representatives from Staffordshire Police, the Fire Service, Staffordshire Moorlands MP Karen Bradley, ex-Stoke North MP Joan Walley. The event would include a tour of Emma Bridgwater factory and workshops; the Mayor thanked Hollinshead Coaches for supporting the event.

The Mayor said that there was still some way to go to encourage young women to 'shatter the glass ceiling', and she wanted to leave this as a legacy from her Mayoral year.

#### **44. BIDDULPH IN BLOOM**

Councillor Sheldon formally presented the Biddulph in Bloom awards to the town and discussed the certificates; for one section Biddulph in Bloom had been awarded an unprecedented 50/50, with 190/200 awarded overall.

Biddulph in Bloom aimed to be sustainable and give best value to community; it had formed with a simple aim, to tidy up the town to help people feel a sense of pride. Councillor Sheldon added that Biddulph had been a very 'sad' town when Biddulph in Bloom had started.

The Mayor accepted the awards on behalf of the town, and read a brief history of Biddulph in Bloom over the past 25 years. The Mayor wanted to reward the 'Bloomers' and announced that she would be treating all of team to afternoon tea at the Shippon Tea Room on 29 January 2017; invitations were given to Councillor Sheldon to distribute to the team. Councillor Sheldon thanked the Mayor adding that Biddulph in Bloom was always looking to do better; this had been a humbling experience. Members joined in a round of applause.

Councillor Rogers responded that locals take Biddulph in Bloom for granted, but that he had heard an enormous amount of favourable comments from people who passed through the town. Councillor Rogers added that without Biddulph in Bloom this would be a 'dreary little village'.

#### **45. YOUTH ADVISOR MEETING REPORT**

The new enthusiastic group of Youth Advisors had enjoyed a tour of the building and were given an introduction to the Town Council and what they could expect from us.

#### **46. STATUTORY NOTICE FOR KINGSFIELD FIRST SCHOOL TO JOIN THE BIDDULPH SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP TRUST**

The Mayor proposed to receive this notice adding that this was the right place for the school, all were in favour.

#### **47. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016 TO BE RECEIVED - NO MATTERS WERE REPORTED**

Officers past and present were thanked by members.

## 48. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

### a) The following account was paid prior to the meeting

Knypersley Cricket Club – grant	1518.00
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### b) The following accounts were received for payment:

Grant Thornton – audit	960.00
V Brown – Events Director	787.92
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market imprest – for stall construction	160.00
Petty cash	29.05
Brian Carter – Woodhouse gates	40.00
ADB Gardencare – maintenance charge 2 <sup>nd</sup> part	8250.00
ADB Gardencare – hedge cutting at burial grounds	800.00
Adare SEC Limited – minute books	199.57
SMDC – lease of Event Director room	175.00
SMDC – lease of Moorland Road allotment site	90.00
SMDC – service charge	16,689.04
D Allcock - Lengthsman work - 255 - load and skip Woodhouse Burial Ground – 200 - skip Town Burial Ground – 150	605.00
Staffs Pension Fund	1333.29
Salaries	3546.77
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 September 2016	1426.99
S Haydon – postage stamps	13.20
J Gaunt – 2 tarpaulins – Artisan Market	31.98
Protech Electrical Limited Inspect and test lamps and connections Christmas Lights Supply additional lamps and decorations	6288.37
Severn Trent Water Limited –Moorland Rd allotment site April – Oct 2016	42.62
Cllr Rogers – travel to Parish Assembly	8.10
Robert Mitchell – design work associated with tender documents Springfield Rd	610.00

The Mayor suspended the meeting at 7.40 pm to resume after the close of the General Purposes Committee. It was agreed that in the absence of the Mayor (a family engagement) and Deputy, Councillor Sheldon would chair that part of the meeting – as Chair of the Allotments Sub-Committee.