

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2014**

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; The Town Crier invited Rev'd Trevor Raaff to lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor then opened the meeting.

### **PRESENT**

The Mayor – Councillor Swift  
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Adams  
Councillor Baddeley  
Councillor Deane  
Councillor Deaville  
Councillor Hall  
Councillor Harper  
Councillor Hart  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Redfern  
Councillor Rogers  
Councillor Sheldon MBE  
Councillor Tolley  
Councillor Walley  
Councillor Whilding  
Councillor Gibson  
Councillor Lovatt  
Councillor Wood

### **15.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Alan Holdsworth was invited to address the meeting regarding the public transport links between Biddulph and Congleton, currently operated by Baker Bus. Mr Holdsworth thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. He had been living in Biddulph for about four years and one of the reasons for choosing to move to the town was the transport links to Congleton and the north. He felt it had been a good choice and was very comfortable in the town. Mr Holdsworth was a regular user of public transport. He praised the Congleton transport hub which linked to anywhere in the country. Four years ago buses ran to Congleton every thirty minutes, however the Bakerbus service now missed links to Crewe and Macclesfield by several minutes and First Bus did not run at all. There had been further reductions to the services on Saturdays and there was not a service on Sundays. Northern Biddulph had the largest tourist attraction in the area at Biddulph Grange, the District Council was about to spend millions on a new sports village and bowling green, The Council run Artisan Market attracted visitors to the town, all with poor transport links to the north.

Councillor Baddeley had received complaints from people who worked in Morrisons in Congleton who were unable to get home from work via public transport. Councillor Baddley felt that this Council should invite Bakerbus representatives to the next meeting to discuss the problem and work to a solution. Councillor Wood agreed, noting that Bakerbus was a private entity.

Councillor Hart endorsed the action, noting that in the future the service may not be fit for purpose. Councillor Hall was of the same opinion, adding that over the years this Council had had many battles with the bus companies.

Councillor Sheldon felt that this emphasised how isolated the community of Biddulph was and how expensive it was for those without their own transport and on a limited budget to get out of the town. Councillor Jones concurred noting again that Bakerbus was a commercial entity and this Council could only lobby the company.

Councillor Rogers felt that many buses were heading in a southern direction, but fewer in northern direction, adding that people preferred to go north. Councillor Baddeley proposed that other companies including Arriva and First Bus should also be invited to the discussion.

It was moved to write to the companies to emphasise the problem and invite them to help to address it.

## **16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Gibson declared a Disclosable and Pecuniary Interest and requested a Dispensation for discussion regarding the Artisan Market until May 2015. This was Moved.
- b Other Disclosable Interests – Councillor Sheldon; anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Hart; the Local Development Framework, site specifics.

## **17. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Davies  
Councillor Ellsum  
Councillor Hawley  
Councillor Jackson

## **18. MINUTES**

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17 June 2014.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 17 June 2014.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 8 July 2014. Councillor Deane had attended the meeting.
- e It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 8 July 2014.

## **19. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- a Mayor's Engagements – the Mayor read out details of his recent engagements:
  - Rotary Sportathon
  - Biddulph Moor First School Fair
  - Apedale Colliery with the Last of the Summer Whiners
  - Festival Launch
  - Alsager Chairman's Civic Sunday
  - Biddulph High Scholl Art Exhibition

- Stone Mayor's Civic Sunday
- received 15 Italian students from Fusignano
- Flower Arrangement Demonstration
- Farewell to the Italian students
- Churches Together Open Café
- Organ Recital
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Chair Civic Sunday

b Any other communications:

Councillor Adams asked the Mayor's permission to send a letter of thanks to the Treasurer of Biddulph Sports Council in recognition of his 24 years service in the community, adding that he did a splendid job. Councillor Walley requested that this be deferred until the Treasurer had completed 25 years.

**20. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT**

None of the students were able to attend. A renewed effort would be made via the Headteachers; to get things in place for the start of the next school year.

**21. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE**

**The following accounts were approved for payment:**

Heads (Congleton) Ltd - Artisan Market advert x2	67.68
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
W Linaker - Stall Construction	156.00
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Local World Ltd – ¼ page advert Leek Post & Times	82.81
SMDC – waste containers at Woodhouse Burial Ground	432.12
SMDC – lease of room 8	175.00
SMDC – lease of Moorland Rd allotment site	77.50
Mr B Harrison – hire of skip for Park Lane allotment site	130.00
Npower – Christmas lighting, unmetered supply	160.78
Smith of Derby Ltd – town hall clock 3 yr contract	604.80
Annodata Ltd – photocopy charges	34.80
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit)	1657.75
Salaries	4103.58
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1546.00
Petty Cash	11.19
D Allcock – Lengthsman work	710.00
M Hall – labour at July market	50.00
Local World Ltd – market advertising	67.20
S Pointon – tree surgery at town burial ground	100.00

The meeting closed at 7.28pm

Signed ..... Date.....