

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2014

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Swift
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Adams
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Deane
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

14.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Jones
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Tolley

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: none were declared

16. MINUTES

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 8 July 2014.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Tourism Sub-committee meeting held on 8 July 2014. Councillor Rogers appealed for suitable photographs for the next calendar.

17. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a The August market had been the largest so far; a good market with some children's activities. It had felt good to have the space due to the closure of the additional part of the road and it was suggested that thought to be given to making this permanent. The Chief Officer reported that the taxi drivers had been unhappy with the closure and signing and would object to further closures.
- b A response had been received from the Senior Lighting Engineer of the County Council, who said that he would look further into the reasons for

the delays with the new lighting columns. The Chief Officer would keep the pressure on Eon over this problem with the lighting scheme.

- c The Chairman reported on the slow progress with the steps; more information had been provided by our architect to the District Council, as requested. The adjoining businesses wanted a 4 week closure, but the contractor would like longer in case problems were uncovered when the steps were removed. The situation was being monitored.
- d The War Memorial cleaning had not gone ahead, mainly due to pressure of work on the Lengthsman. The Chief Officer had contacted a local window cleaning firm to discuss this project and see if they had a suitable solution. It was stressed that power washing should not be carried out, but a special stone cleaner must be used. Councillor Gibson felt that the railings should be replaced and the size of the area should be increased. Councillor Sheldon mentioned a heritage railings company at Leek. This would be included as an agenda item for the next meeting. It was noted that the whole area was very cluttered, with street furniture and road signs; the space needed de-cluttering. The Chair suggested seeking architectural help for this; he added that the regeneration fund could be used. Councillor Davies added that it was unfortunate that Biddulph did not have a Conservation Area; this made it more difficult to deal with eyesores
- e Councillor Sheldon was invited to address the meeting. She had been looking at Biddulph's heritage – both buildings and artefacts - to photograph and describe. Two listed buildings in Biddulph were on an 'at risk' register. Councillor Sheldon had been unable to find the milestone in Overton Road. Cracks had been found in the stonework at Jamaica/Gibacre Bridge on Grange Road. The Engine House was still in the same condition, a poor state of repair. Crowborough Farm was also in a poor condition. When complete, the results would be sent to the District Council's Conservation Officer.

The 'Local List' was also being compiled. This would include buildings etc which were valued locally, not of conservation status, but of local interest. Councillor Sheldon suggested that the buildings from the Conservative Club on the High Street, the Gymnasium in Wharf Road up to number 3 Wharf Road should be included on the list. Any other important features should be put forwards. Councillor Sheldon noted that the Biddulph in Bloom results would be announced in the second week in September 2014.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed Date