

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Swift
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Adams
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies: Chair
Councillor Deane
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers: Vice Chair
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Tolley
Councillor Whilding

37.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jones

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: Councillors Hall and Harper declared interests in the Christmas Lights item and the War Memorial as members of the Rotary Club of Biddulph. Councillor Hall declared an interest in Minute 41, as Chair of Finance.

39. MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 11 November 2014.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 11 November 2014.

40. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DEBRIEF

Councillor Davies gave thanks to those who had helped with the Christmas Lights event: to Kate and Jean for organisation, Veronica Brown for planning the event and market, to Biddulph Rotary for a splendid job with the Grotto and the road closure, to the many volunteers who had helped with the market, the paid help for doing a very good job, the police, and especially to Councillor Rogers for his technical skills.

Regarding the Christmas tree – thanks to Tina and Paul Warwick for the kind donation. We had asked for a smaller one this year – following difficulty installing last year's, but this is other extreme. We would have to look at this again for next year.

Regarding the entertainment, the Chair commended Glyn Gant for the excellent roadshow and the great variety of music this year with the Ukulele Band, Terrinova, Churches Together. The event had lasted from 2.30 until 8pm and had been a very

good evening. The Vice Chair added his thanks - to Councillor Davies for providing the welcome refreshments for the volunteers.

Some comments had been received – could we look at adding more lights to the area around the town hall, to make more of an impact in the town centre. Members agreed we should look at this in good time for next year. Councillor Rogers would like to see icicle lights in this section. Councillor Davies added that we used to have lights in the two lime trees and that he had added the town hall frontage to the January agenda. Councillor Jackson said that as we may be having changes made to the frontage this may be opportunity to put in some infrastructure.

41. BUDGET FOR 2015/16

The current expenditure to date was reviewed (appendix A) and recommendations for the next financial year considered. It was Moved to keep the budget the same for next year, with the exception of increasing the Christmas Lights to £17,000.

Councillor Hall didn't take part in the discussion, as this item will come to the Finance Committee in January.

42. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a Re the Street Art project – the artist had suggested the best site to be under the Newpool Road bridge, but there had been a strong opposition from residents. Councillor Rogers had the idea of graffiti artwork onto the A527 boards when not otherwise in use – a Welcome to Biddulph – and proposed this. Councillor Baddeley felt that if the art was good it would have a reverse effect and encourage others to copy. Should we give him a licence to be creative?
Councillor Davies said that the boards would give more people chance of seeing it and that we should take note of young people. He seconded Councillor Roger's proposal. Councillor Tolley agreed that we should give the artist a chance and show the work to the residents. Councillor Adams was concerned about others copying unless in a controlled area. He wished to put on record that he was opposed to the idea.
Councillor Sheldon suggested putting on a workshop for young people and added that we should show support and interest in young people. The skatepark was often graffitied, but this seems allowed at skate parks in other towns. Councillor Davies said this should be renamed the Street Art Project and agreed that it could lead on to workshops. A vote was taken on Councillor Rogers proposal for artwork on the A527 boards, seconded by Councillor Hall. All were in favour except Councillor Adams, who voted against.
- b the Vice Chair announced that there would be a Tourism stall on Wednesday from 2.00 pm onwards in Sainsbury's. He asked for volunteer and Councillor Jackson said he could do from 3.00-4.00 pm
- c There would be an addition Christmas Artisan Market on 19th
- d This would be the last Civic meeting for Kirsty from the local press. Good wishes for her future were expressed by all.
- e Councillor Hall gave his thanks to Chair for all of his hard work at the lights event. Congratulations on a great success.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed Date

APPENDIX A

CIVIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2015/16

a) BUDGETED EXPENDITURE FOR 2013/14 (CURRENT)

Christmas Lights	16,000
Civic Allowance	4,165
Civic Expenditure	7,000
Events Director	8,920
Events	1,000
Festival	5,000
Regeneration	15,000
Remembrance Sunday	100
Tourism	<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL	60,185

b) ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENDITURE (to date):

Income:

Market	3,486
Sales	<u>306</u>
TOTAL	3,792

Total expected out turn at year end: £4,550

Expenditure:

Christmas Lights	15,527	(3/3 installation payment £4,310 in Jan)
Civic Allowance	4,165	
Civic Expenditure	9,794	(inc War Memorial renovation £6,246)
Events Director	5,947	
Events	739	
Festival	5,000	
Market	4,860	(not included in budgeted expenditure)
Regeneration	0	
Remembrance Sunday	48	
Tourism	<u>1,029</u>	
TOTAL	47,109	

Total expected out turn at year end: £56,869