

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Swift
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Adams
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies: Chair
Councillor Deane
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Rogers: Vice Chair
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Whilding

43.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Harper

Mr J Robinson – Town Crier

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in any matters relating to Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Interests: none were declared.

45. MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 9 December 2014.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive the verbal report of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 12 January 2015.

46. TOWN HALL FRONTAGE

The Chair reported that as the town hall garden had lost two trees, this was an appropriate time to put this on the agenda. The Chair felt that the area around the town hall should be emphasised as more of a town centre. Councillor Sheldon was asked to speak; she wondered if we could have two evergreens which could be sustainable and dressed as Christmas Trees. We could also have Festival of Light as some areas do, the trees to go round the Balance Wheel. Permanent trees could be trimmed and shaped.

Councillor Wood asked if, in terms of the general frontage could this be incorporated into this project? This was agreed and he suggested we ask the District Council if we could work together on this.

Councillor Gibson commented that with any events held in the town hall there are potential problems getting up the steps to the hall. Anything to attract people in would help. He reminded members that a few years ago we had some design workshops based on the town hall frontage and the Station Road land. He also felt that if there was more hard standing there could have more events on the land; it

opened up another avenue; possibly festival events. Councillor Deane agreed that with redesign we could have more outdoor events

Councillor Sheldon suggested that we ask the District Council to come up with some plans. The ground levels were different on each side of wall. She had always felt it would be desirable to light up the two lime trees, which would give more presence to the town centre. Councillor Gibson felt that we should draw scheme up and put it to the District Council.

Councillor Deane said that he still thought that a Christmas Tree at Christmas time was a focal point, and that this presence should still be maintained.

The Chair asked if we should get some costs to take this forwards and Councillor Adams added that it was terribly important for the future, proposing a sub-committee to work on it. Councillor Sheldon thought there may be an issue with taking up the grass, as there is so little in the town centre.

It was agreed to set up a sub-committee: Councillors Deane, Gibson, Adams, Rogers, Sheldon, Davies and Rogers.

Councillor Jackson advised waiting until the District Council had made a decision on what was happening with this building.

47. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a Steps report: the work on the steps was to commence during the following week. All legal parties have now signed the party wall agreements. The builder had revised his estimate upwards by 10% from the original estimate of July 2013 to £28,897 (previously £26,270). This was Agreed. Councillor Jackson commented 'beware of quick wins' and said he had great respect to Chairman for pushing this one forwards. Councillor Gibson echoed these sentiments.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed Date