

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2014

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer, and invited Father Julian Green 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 Davies
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Town Crier – Mr J Robinson

67.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Presentation of the original Chamber of Trade and Commerce (CoTC) Chain of Office to the Town Council for safekeeping by Councillor Gibson:

Councillor Gibson presented the Chain of Office to the Mayor and gave a brief speech on the CoTC, which had been formed in 1958 and was replaced in 2007 by the Biddulph Business Chamber (BBC). The ceramic emblem had been designed by Mr Simpson of Biddulph and may have been made at the Josiah Wedgwood factory at Barlaston.

Councillor Jackson noted that input from both BCoT and BBC had proved invaluable over the years. He gave examples of times of friction, adding that there had always been constructive criticism. Councillor Jackson had enjoyed the Chamber's input to the Regeneration Executive.

Councillor Sheldon paid tribute to Councillor Gibson for all the years he had tried to nurture CoTC and praised him for the way he had stuck to the task and tried his very best for the people and town of Biddulph.

Councillor Hart thanked Councillor Gibson for giving the Chain to the town, adding that Councillor Gibson had served the town for many years, especially noting his invaluable support for the Area Action Plan.

Councillor Hall added his thanks, especially for bringing the Chain to the Town Hall. Councillor Hall felt that it was the right place for it. The Council was now gathering quite an historical collection, which would need to be reorganised so that people could see our heritage.

Councillor Rogers added that Councillor Gibson had put his heart and soul into the job, and had not always received the support he deserved. In the early days the CoTC had been very well attended, but interest had died away. Councillor Rogers hoped that in the future this would change - with an new Chamber, new Chain and new Chair.

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Jackson; this was unanimous.

- b PCSO Sherratt reported from an email received from the Chief Constable about Operation Nemesis, where drugs to the value of £15 million and £3 million had been seized and arrests made. A Biddulph Officer had been involved.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Matthew Ellis had been in Biddulph the previous week at both The Roaches and James Bateman Junior High School

Speedwatch had recruited 4 new volunteers.

Vicky Ellis and Moorlands Together had compiled and printed a contact card with phone numbers of emergency and other useful services. Copies were distributed to members.

Sgt Slinn spoke of the Commissioner's People Power Fund; the fund empowers local community groups to find solutions to community safety problems through smaller grants of between £100 and £3000. These could range from the provision of positive activities for young people with the aim of reducing ASB in a local community. Applications can be made via the PCC website or by telephoning 01785 232385, between 1 March and 14 April 2015. The scheme was funded by money seized from criminals and had to be reinvested into local communities. Local police would help with applications.

A local man had been in breach of an ASB order had been sent to court. Another local, who had been intimidating a witness, had been remanded in custody; these were both thought to be good results.

The Mercian Regiment would be in Leek the following day to parade and to host a recruitment drive.

Councillor Jackson asked if there was a ceiling on money gained from the proceeds of crime and who decided which good cause would be helped. Sgt Slinn replied that he was not sure who made the decision, but thought that it was probably a committee in the PCC office. However he did know that from the amount seized 100% would be invested back into the community.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

69. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Deane
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Harper

70. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20 January 2015.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 20 January 2015.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 February 2015.
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 10 February 2015 Re Minute 51: Councillor Wood asked what the criteria change for Moorlands Partnership Funding was. The Chief Officer responded that the funding had previously only been for conservation areas as the money was from the Heritage Lottery Fund, but that this had now changed and therefore Biddulph could now apply. Councillor Sheldon said that she had hand delivered copies of the criteria to those who had asked and would hand deliver a copy to Councillor Wood

71. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor read out details of his recent engagements over the last month, including a 90th Birthday visit and a Mayor's charity concert by Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra – an excellent evening. The Mayor's Race would be held the following Sunday. The main race was full, but the Fun Run was still open.

72. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

No meeting – half term. Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis would be attending the Meeting in March.

73. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

a The following accounts were received for payment:

Market cash float	50.00
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
HM Revenue & Customs (<i>to be paid by direct debit 6/3/15</i>)	1,684.65
Salaries	4,119.22
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,557.93
Petty Cash	8.59
Shaw & Sons – stationery (receipt books)	118.08
Kent County Council – quarterly copier charge Nov-Jan	55.21
Moorside Memorials – relocation of memorial (Burial Ground Minute 27.14a)	80.00
Go Daddy – renewal of web hosting & bandwidth (<i>paid by credit card 25 Jan</i>)	100.66
Npower Ltd - BT kiosk electricity charges for period 1/7/12 to 31/3/14	298.35
<i>Approved at January meeting – paid by credit card 21 January</i>	
D Allcock – to empty skip at burial ground - 150.00	
Lengthsman work – 100.00	400.00
RAD Plant - preliminary invoice re work on steps	9,300.00
Lee W Hughes – Mayoral portraits	175.00
Tower Surveys Ltd – topographical survey, Springfield Road	1,140.00
Severn Trent Water – Town Burial Ground	59.87
Kalamazoo Secure solutions Ltd – Minute Binder	111.54
Npower – Christmas lights metered charge	86.07
R Standell – 2 new memorial strips and ground levelling in section L	2,320.00
Replacement of cheque number 5428 – authorised in December	

- b It was Moved to approve the closure of the Second Business Reserve Account and to transfer the balance to the First Business Reserve Account (both with NatWest Bank plc) in order to maximise interest earned.**

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed Date.....