

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2015

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Swift
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Adams
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies: Chair
Councillor Deane
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers: Vice Chair
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

58.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Gibson

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared
- b Other Interests: Cllr Sheldon – as Vice Chair of Moorlands Partnership Board

60. MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 10 March 2015.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Tourism Committee meeting held on 10 March 2015.

61. MOORLANDS PARTNERSHIP BOARD FUNDING

- a To discuss the Kissing Gates project (funding now approved by Moorlands Partnership Board)

The Chair gave a résumé of the kissing gates project. This had been brought to the February meeting and at the March meeting given permission to take this project forwards to the MPB. The Town Council had now received approval, with conditions, which included seeking a grant (Rights of Way) from the County Council, as the gates were sited on two public footpaths. We were now in a position to decide whether to proceed and then to pass forwards to the Finance Committee.

Councillor Jones asked if there was a time limit. Councillor Davies answered that there was no time limit on the grant, but that the

contractors' estimates had a time limit, as was usual. Councillor Sheldon added that there was a time limit of approval of 2½ years for completion of the Moorlands Partnership Board projects.

Councillor Wood said that as we had to seek funding from the County Council before we could proceed any further we should apply for this first.

Councillor Lovatt asked about seeking permission from the landowners. Cllr Davies said that an informal approach had been made and that this would now be formalised.

Councillor Wood commented that we could learn much from this process for future projects.

Councillor Hart said that it had been a case of 'get a move' on to seek money from this years' budget. We may wish to seek some funding from next year's budget, too. Councillor Sheldon said that it was the right way round – we now had to get boxes ticked and she proposed that we proceeded with fulfilling the grant criteria. Councillor Hart seconded the proposal

Councillor Jackson asked if any unspent MPB funding would be rolled forwards. Councillor Sheldon thought that all of this year's had been spent. If any projects didn't go forwards, the money may go back in to the pot.

Councillor Jackson what was the size of the overall pot? Councillor Hart replied that it was £55,000. Councillor Jackson felt that this was not a vast amount of money for the District and needed looking at now the criteria had expanded. It was being spread very thinly.

A vote was taken and all were in were in favour.

b Other projects

The Chair said that no other projects had been brought forwards as yet. We were awaiting the initial concept design for the War Memorial area. Councillor Hart said that all ward councillors should look at what may be viable and deliverable - get projects together and gain Biddulph's fair share. The MPB Criteria to be emailed to all Councillors.

62. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a The Town Crier went to Halifax Town Criers' contest last weekend and came second amidst very strong competition. Councillor Jackson said that John was such a tremendous asset to this town and proposed sending an e-mail to congratulate him and that his work and efforts are recognised. All were in favour.
- b The Coalfield Conservation Council had awarded Biddulph in Bloom £2,500 to replace equipment lost in the fire and buy to some new. Councillor Jackson congratulated Councillor Sheldon and Biddulph in Bloom for getting that funding, which may not be available in the future.

- c The Chair said that as this was the last meeting of the year, he would like to thank all members for being the Civic Committee over the past four years. There had been some very good, robust and healthy discussions, and the committee had done some excellent work.

Councillor Jackson paid tribute to Councillor Davies' Chairmanship and for putting through worthwhile projects. Councillor Hall added to this; this committee was created for people to actually do the work. However, without a Chair who was willing to get down to work we would get nothing done. Councillor Davies was always actually pushing things forwards. Councillor Rogers said that Councillor Davies puts the work in and led from the front.

- d The Mayor had just a few tickets left for his Civic Ball on 24 April and asked members if they would donate a raffle prize if they couldn't attend.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed Date