

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2015

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer. He invited Rev'd Pam Butler 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 Deane
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

82.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a PCSO Sherratt reported that the town was quiet, crime and anti-social behaviour were down. A Community Speedwatch had been carried out for an hour at each location between 13 and 19 April 2015. The following were found to be in excess of the speed limit: Newpool Road 9/217 vehicles; Park Lane 8/225 vehicles; Congleton Road near to St Lawrence's Church 12/772 vehicles.
- b Bus services – Mr Alan Holdsworth had further information. The Chief Officer reported that Councillor Wood had objected to Mr Holdsworth addressing the Council, citing purdah.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon, anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom as Chair. Minute 89: Councillor Rogers; his expenses

84. APOLOGIES

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

85. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17 March 2015.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 17 March 2015.

- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 23 March 2015.
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 April 2015.
- e It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 14 April 2015.

86. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor read out details of his recent engagements over the last month. He congratulated the Town Crier on achieving second place in a recent competition. The Mayor reminded everyone that his Civic Ball would be held on the following Friday and appealed for donations towards the raffle.

The Mayor then thanked those members who would be retiring from office following the meeting. Councillor Hall also thanked colleagues and Councillors who had worked well together for the benefit of the people of Biddulph and thanked those not standing for re-election: Councillors Deane, Deaville, Ellsum and Tolley. Councillor Hall added that their input had been invaluable over the time. Councillor Hall gave a special mention to the Deputy Mayor Councillor Adams who had served this community for 32 years. He had played a part in all of the changes and the time that he had given was unquantifiable. Councillor Adams had served as Mayor in 1992-1993, and Deputy Mayor twice; setting a high standard as a District Councillor too. As Chair of the Planning committee and Burial sub-committee for the past 8 years, Councillor Adams had brought the new burial ground project to a conclusion the previous year. He had done a great job with that and this reinforced the debt owed. He had made a difference. He was a Gentleman and a Friend. A round of applause was given.

Councillor Jackson added thanks on behalf of his group; Councillor Adams had needed the patience of a judge as the new Burial ground had taken a long time. He had been tenacious and his chairmanship had forced it through on behalf of the Council. Councillor Jackson thanked Councillor Adams for thirty plus years of service; a life dedicated to the town.

The Mayor presented Councillor Adams with a small gift and a certificate.

Councillor Adams responded that he had a great time and had met some smashing people, but would that this would never surpass the amount of service given by Councillor Hall over the past 40 plus years.

The Mayor presented Councillor Deane with a certificate and gift. Councillor Deane responded and thanked The Chief Officer and Officer for their help in the two sessions of Council and especially when he was serving as Mayor. Councillor Deane added that it had been a pleasure working with his fellow Councillors and wished them luck in the future.

Councillor Ellsum was presented with a certificate and gift, he thanked everyone adding that he had enjoyed his time as a Councillor and may return in the future, when he retired.

87. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

The Chief Officer reported. Councillor Sheldon, The Town Crier and Ross Podyma from Sporting Communities had attended and Ross brought along two apprentices. Ross gave results of a survey with some young people at Halls Road playing field.

Towards the end of the Youth Advisor meeting the Town Crier gave a cry about that evening's last Council meeting. The Youth Advisors were very interested.

88. MEETINGS CALENDAR FOR MAY 2015 - APRIL 2016

A copy of the adopted calendar would be sent with papers for the meeting due to be held on 12 May 2015. Councillor Hart asked if a copy could be sent to the District Council to avoid a clash of dates. This was agreed.

89. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

a The following accounts were paid in advance of the meeting:

HB Clews – path at Biddulph Valley Park (Lengthsman budget March '15)	2,400.00
Joanne's Catering – Mayor's Coffee Morning	96.00

b The following accounts were received for payment:

Heads (Congleton) Ltd – market advertisements	138.24
V Brown – Market Organiser	50.00
W Linaker – 1 day cleaning/repairing market equipment	84.96
W Linaker – market stall construction	75.00
S Salt – market stall construction	75.00
Star Print & Design – vinyl dates for market advertising boards	76.80
Councillor Rogers – cable ties/tape for banner repair	9.00
Mr B Carter – for locking gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	60.00
Roy Beech (Contractors) Ltd – final settlement, retention fee	3,287.10
D W Lovatt – burial grounds maintenance, 1 st half 2015	5,821.00
SMDC – annual waste collection, Woodhouse Burial Ground	150.69
SMDC – annual waste collection, Town Burial Ground	3,282.67
SMDC – lease of land at Moorland Rd (allotments)	90.00
SMDC – lease of Room 8	175.00
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Petty Cash	58.38
D Allcock – Lengthsman work April, surfacing path at Orme Rd	1,110.00
VBG Martin – travel expenses for Neighbourhood Planning advice	35.75
HM Revenue & Customs (<i>to be paid by direct debit 5/5/15</i>)	1,822.87
Salaries	4,417.29
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,727.87
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – annual subscription	1,171.00

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Signed Date.....