

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2015

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor and Chief Officer. He then led members in a time of prayer. The Mayor then opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

1.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a PCSO Report

PCSO Sherratt reported that: new recruit PCSO Tom Harvey was being tutored for 12 weeks and would replace Karen Hulse. Biddulph Police was now on Twitter - @BiddulphPolice. 13 Junior Cadets had been recruited at Woodhouse Academy. Council staff at Bemersley Tip had alerted Police to the dumping of cannabis plants, CCTV had identified the culprit.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Re Minute 7a; Councillor Rogers as Treasurer of the Festival Committee. Councillor Rogers thanked Council on behalf of the Festival Committee noting that there would be 60 plus events during July.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Lovatt

4. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21 April 2015.

- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 21 March 2015, plus the Special meeting held on 8 April 2015. Re Minute 112; Councillor Wood noted that the Fire and Rescue Service (FARS) consultation would end soon and urged everyone to write as a matter of urgency to reject the proposal
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 12 May 2015.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had attended her first engagement, visiting Tall Oaks Nursing Home where she had met lots of happy old people. The Mayor announced that her Civic Sunday would be held at St Lawrence's Church on Sunday 12 July 2015 at 3.00 pm, followed by a buffet.

6. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

The Chief Officer read from a report by the Town Crier. It had been a disappointingly attended meeting. The Town Crier had given a potted history of his role culminating in a proclamation to advertise the Annual Town Meeting this evening. The representatives from Sporting Communities and Biddulph Youth Zone were absent. Staffordshire FARS Safety Officer John Walton had given a brief run-down of his job in the community. The three Youth Advisors gave a brief summary of their part in the Youth Advisor scheme.

7. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Civic Allowances:	
Mayor's allowance – Councillor E Baddeley	2,535.00
Deputy Mayor's Allowance – Councillor J Salt	1,020.00
Town Crier's Honorarium – Mr J Robinson	610.00
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – Annual Meeting advert	77.28
Heads (Congleton) Ltd - Artisan Market advert	69.12
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
W Linaker - Stall Construction	75.00
Market float	93.05
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
FW & D Wain – bulbs for display cabinet	17.20
Severn Trent Water – Moorland Rd allotment site	118.26
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
NALC – subscription to Local Council Review	17.00
Npower – Christmas lighting (metred supply)	26.97
K Thacker – travel expenses, audit documents	16.20
J Gaunt - travel expenses, audit collection	5.40
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit 5/6/15)	1,715.15
Salaries	4,243.42
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,656.06
Petty cash	29.23
D Allcock – Lengthsman work May (£475) + empty skip (£150)	625.00
Elizabeth Thompson – Internal audit fee	192.60
Biddulph Community Festival	5,000.00
Kent County Council – copier charges	53.81
Npower – annual kiosk electricity charge	172.09

b) Audit of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2015:

- i) the Annual Report of the Internal Auditor was moved **Received**
- ii) the completed Annual Return was moved **Received**
- iii) Section 2 (the Annual Governance Statement) was **Approved** and the following declaration made:

We acknowledge as the members of Biddulph Town Council our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2015, that:

Members then agreed a 'Yes' response to Boxes 1-8 & a 'Not Applicable' to Box 9 in Section 2.

1.15b PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was Moved that Standing Orders be suspended and Mr Alan Holdsworth was invited to address the meeting. He spoke about that afternoon's meeting with County Councillors Lawson, Jackson and Deaville, the County Council's Transport officer (Jeff Tucker), the Mayor of Biddulph, Councillor Rogers and the Chief Officer. Mr Holdsworth reported that the outcome had been positive. They were working to a deadline of September 2015 when the new timetabling would come into effect and subsidies would be allocated. Mr Tucker would be meeting with Mr Holdsworth and Chris Almond from D & G buses as soon as possible.

Signed Date.....

Standing Orders were resumed and The Mayor called for nominations for the Chair of General Purposes Committee. Councillor Hall proposed Councillor Hart; this was seconded by Councillor Jones and Councillor Hart was elected as Chair for the coming year.