

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JULY 2015

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers

21.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Nicosia

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Hart: a DPI in anything pertaining to the LDF site allocations.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon: in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom

23. MINUTES

It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 16 June 2015.

24. URGENT ITEM ALLOWED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR

Councillor Lovatt talked about the repair which had still not been carried out to the northern High Street. All the barriers had been knocked down and some were blocking the pavement; there was an injury risk to both pedestrians and road users. It was moved to send an email forthwith to the County Highways to ask that the work be done without further delay. County Councillor Deaville should also be asked to intervene. Councillor Redfern noted that he had raised the same issue at the meeting of the Civic Committee held the previous week.

Councillor Wood thought it would be useful to ask County Councillor Lawson to intervene; he had been able to speed up the process on a previous issue.

Councillor Hart noted the delay had been caused by a utility company disagreement, and that this would not have arisen if the County Council still employed a utilities manager. Councillor Jackson thought the issue had been exacerbated now AMEY had the contract; this meant that there were no structural engineers at the County Council. Councillor Rogers had been approached at Biddulph by the Sea by Paul Warwick, who was been unable to drive his fairground vehicles along the High Street back to the depot.

Councillor Hart proposed that he would telephone County Councillors Deaville and Lawson and the Chief Officer would telephone the Officers at County Highways. All were in favour and the proposal was Moved.

25. LICENCES, BIDDULPH TOWN HALL

Councillor Rogers requested clarification of the terms of the Premises Licence. The Chief Officer read out an email from Licensing. She would meet with the Festival Committee to look at future needs and apply for the necessary revision. Councillor Rogers noted that this would have a cost implication.

26. HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR

In the absence of Councillors Court and Harper, this item was deferred to a future agenda. Councillor Rushton noted that the event had been extremely useful and should be run here on a bigger scale, with all Councillors and local organisations invited to attend.

27. SPRINGFIELD ROAD SITE

Councillor Sheldon reported on the public consultation held on 7 July which she felt had been a success. Councillors Lovatt and Walley had leafletted all surrounding homes on the hottest day since records began! Several comments sheets had been completed and Councillor Sheldon proposed that Wood, Goldstraw and Yorath should be instructed to put the planning application to the District Council, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and Moved. Councillor Sheldon noted that a 50% reduction on the planning fee had been agreed with the District Council.

28. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a Letter received from the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding the Space scheme, including a poster. The scheme runs from 20 July to 4 September. *Councillor Jackson noted that, rather than being funded by the Police, local businesses were involved. Councillor Salt noted that limited funding had come from the Proceeds of Crime Act for the Youth and Community Zone Ltd*
- b Letter received from the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding the People Power Fund. This will be open again between 1 August and 14 September and is to support ideas to improve community safety, reduce crime and increase public safety.
It was felt that the Chief Officer should email this information to PCSO Sherratt.
- c Copy of the Staffordshire Archive Service's latest newsletter, plus information on the current consultation on proposed changes to the delivery of the service. This can be found on the Staffordshire Archives & Heritage Service consultation link at the following page:
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultationandfeedback/>

29. MEETINGS ATTENDED DURING THE MONTH

- a Councillor Wood had attended the LDF Consultation event held in the Council Chamber the previous week. He felt that notification of the event had been poor and that members of the public should be encouraged to get involved. The Chief Officer had spoken to Ruth Woodiss – Forward Planning Officer - and the large plans and supporting papers would be on view in Councils Connect for the last 6 weeks of the consultation. Councillor Salt noted that for future events more space would be needed; there were hundreds of people in the Chamber. There should have been more appropriate plans and more books.
- b Councillor Rogers had attended a training event run by the SPCA. It had been advertised as Chairmanship training, but had covered more general topics eg powers and purposes of Town Councils and Councillors. Copies of the accompanying papers had been given to the new members of the Council for reference.
- c Councillor Hart spoke of the changes to local government which he thought would be considerable in future years.

30. LENGSTHMAN WORK

Any issues to be reported to the Chief Officer.

31. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Extension of 30 mph zone, A527 north of Biddulph

Further to the serious accident two weeks ago, I have forwarded a letter from a local resident to County Councillor Mark Deaville calling for an extension to the 30 mph limit from the junction of Grange Road to just north of Bosley Brook.

Councillor Hart had received a telephone call that afternoon informing him of a Speedwatch operation which had recently been carried out where 1000 vehicles had been recorded on that stretch of road between 5 and 6 pm.

Councillor Rogers thought that reducing the speed limit would not have any effect and that more drastic measures were needed.

Councillor Hart thought that uniformed police with radar guns would be a better solution.

2 Proposal for parking restrictions at Park Lane/Conway Road

Following requests from the Knypersley Residents Association for parking restrictions around the blind bend on Park Lane, the County Councillor has prioritised this request through the Divisional Highways Programme and support from the Town Council is now being sought.

It was agreed to support this request.

3 Confirmation of Road Traffic Order to prohibit parking adjacent to junctions at Station Road, Craigside, Dorset Drive & Gas Works Road

A copy of the proposed Order has been received from the County Council. Any objections are to be sent to the Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Place by 20 August, quoting reference HoCPS/TM/TR15/15.

4 Highway Winter Maintenance Review

The County Council is currently developing a new winter service policy and would like input from town and parish councils. The questions are tabled ~ please let us have them back as soon as possible.

Councillor Jackson noted that the Moorlands had been spared these cuts and encouraged everyone to fill in the questionnaire.

5 Mental Health Is Everybody's Business

An invitation has been received to attend the launch of a new approach for mental health across Staffordshire at Moorlands house on Wednesday 9 September from 2-5 pm. If you would like to attend please confirm at: <http://bit.ly/HWSMHStratLeek>.

6 The Staffordshire Regiment Memorial

A letter of thanks has been received from Retired-Major Jim Massey for the donation of funds towards the restoration of the Staffordshire Regiment's Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. Work has progressed very well and it is hoped to re-dedicate the memorial on 5 September 2015.

32. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWED ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- a Reminder of Rev'd Cannam's final service on Sunday 2 August 2015 at 9.15am, all invited.
- b Reminder that a Hog Roast was to be held at St Lawrence's Church Hall on Saturday 25 July 2015, numbers of those attending to be given to the Chief Officer by 22 July 2015.
- c Councillor Hart proposed that an official letter of thanks be sent to Rev'd Martin Cannam for his work in the community over the last 15 years and his regular attendance at Town Council meetings. Seconded by Councillor Whilding and all in favour.
- d Councillor Jackson proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to Bosley Parish Council following the recent fire at the Wood Treatment Works. Many people from Biddulph worked there and many more have been touched by the tragedy. Councillor Salt proposed that a book of condolence be opened; this was seconded by Councillor Whilding. The book would be located in Councils Connect.
- e Councillor Swift read from a press release; there would be a meeting of the Bowling Club Committee on Friday 24 July at 7.15 pm in Biddulph Town Hall, anyone interested in joining the club should attend. Councillor Jackson noted that the new green was an excellent facility, but must become self-supporting. On behalf of the Sports Council, Councillor Jackson thanked all those who had got the project off the ground. Councillor Swift thanked everyone, adding that it had been seven years since the club knew that it would lose the facility at the Labour Club which had been on Craigside. Councillor Walley added thanks to Rev'd Cannam for his openness and fairness in allowing the club to use half of the green open space for car parking. Councillor McGuinness added that it was indeed a fantastic facility, but asked for confirmation that St Lawrence's Church would still be allowed use of the green space for their ViBeS holiday play scheme which catered for upwards of one hundred children for a week in August. Councillor Hart said that he would confirm this. Councillor Jackson asked who

would take responsibility for the care of the green spaces. Councillor Swift replied that this was unclear, but SMDC did now own the covenant for the land.

- f Councillor Sheldon noted that the judges for the regional Britain in Bloom competition had visited the town that afternoon. Brown Lees and Biddulph Moor had entered the Neighbourhood competition; judging for that would take place on 27 July 2015. The Britain in Bloom National judges would be in Biddulph on 3 August 2015.
- g The Mayor said that she was so proud what was done in Biddulph; for example, the Bowling Green, the Community Festival and Biddulph in Bloom and thought that we should blow our own trumpets more. Councillor Baddeley added that her Consort – who lived in Northwich - was telling everyone he met at Civic events what a superb place Biddulph was.
- h Paperwork relating to the proposed refurbishment of the Town Hall had been tabled. It was moved to discuss this further at the next meeting of the Civic Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

SignedDate.....