

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2015

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance
Councillor Rogers

33.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Walley

The Chair circulated recent newspaper reports about why people were moving to Biddulph.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Hart in anything pertaining to the LDF site allocations.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Salt in Minute 37, as a member of Biddulph Youth and Community Zone Ltd.

35. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 21 July 2015.
- b It was Resolved to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Burial Grounds Committee held on 11 August 2015.

36. BIDDULPH YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ZONE LTD

Mel Hilton from the Biddulph Youth and Community Zone Ltd (BYCZ) was invited to address meeting. Mel thanked Councillors for their continued support both financial and otherwise. The Zone was becoming a hub for the community. Staff had been appointed and several new sessions had begun: youth mental health sessions; walking football; an art class where the participants had ranged in age from 10-70;

summer holiday activities; a Befriending session and Bingo. In the next few weeks it would be holding a singalong film screening of Grease the Musical.

The BYCZ had also been shortlisted for the Sentinel Our Community Heroes award.

The Official opening would take place on Saturday 5 September 2015 between 11.30-2.30 and members were welcome to attend and show support.

The building and staff costs were covered by the Lottery Grant for the next five years, but further fundraising was needed to provide further activities. As the community benefits BYCZ was looking to offer community shares from 1 September to 31 December 2015. It was hoped to raise £20,000 to allow further services and activities and to ensure sustainability. Further information can be found at www.microgenius.org.uk or to pre register interest bycz@outlook.com

Councillor Hart responded that BYCZ was a credit to the town and that it was important to look to the future and anticipate problems that may arise.

Councillor Wood felt that BYCZ was doing a fantastic job on behalf of the residents of Biddulph; he asked if the Town Council could buy into shares, Councillor Jones concurred and supported the proposal. He added that it was a fabulous place and he had been amazed at the amount of young people there when he had visited in a professional capacity the previous week.

Councillor Wood proposed and Councillor Jones seconded that the proposal was put before the Finance Committee. This was moved. Councillor Salt abstained from the vote.

Mel reported that there had been an incredible increase in the number of people coming to the Zone in the summer and felt that young people were taking ownership. Local businesses would also be approached to gain a local ownership.

Councillor Harper asked what the shareholders responsibility would be if the project nosedived. Mel replied there would be no liability, but adding that the investment would be at risk.

37. HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR

Councillors Court, Harper and Rushton had attended a Health and Safety, Risk Assessment seminar recently which had been run by the Council's insurers Zurich. Councillor Harper reported that they had all been highly impressed by both the presentation and the content. Zurich was willing to come and address the Town Council and to put on a seminar here – the cost would be £500 and could be opened up to other bodies in and around the town.

Councillor Court added that the content had been focussed on Risk Assessment and had opened their eyes, he proposed that this council looked at arranging a course to be held in Biddulph in the near future. Councillor Rushton seconded the proposal adding that they had all learned a lot.

Councillor Jones added his support but with mixed feelings. Councillor Wood agreed that education was important, but queried how a problem, once identified would be reported and enforced. Councillor Sheldon noted that she had attended a Health and Safety course run by the District Council

Councillor Hall proposed that an investigation of both District Council and Zurich courses should be made and that the better one should be progressed further. All were in favour.

Councillor Hawley, in the role of Monitoring Officer had recommended that all committees should review their own Risk Assessments; he felt that the training would be very useful.

Councillor Harper was puzzled that the SMDC run courses, as this had not been mentioned previously.

38. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a Letter received from the County Council that a Road Closure Order has been made from 10 September, the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Pines Lane, Biddulph Park from 'The Patch' Bungalow to 'The Pines' until cable work has been completed. Moved Received.
- b Email received regarding the next 'Staffordshire in the Great War' free one day event on Saturday 3rd October in Stafford. Contact the Great War Project Officer on 01889 869 140 for further information. Moved Received.

41. MEETINGS ATTENDED DURING THE MONTH

- a Councillor Davies reported on a recent market review meeting. It was felt that things were going reasonably well, but it was in need of impetus. It was decided to tag on a car boot sale to the next market to be held on 4 September 2015. Plots would initially be let to 20 cars at £7 per table.
- b Councillor Lawson had attended a County Health Authority meeting. East Staffordshire Health Authority was being taken over by the private company Virgin Care for a trial period. Councillor Lawson had also attended a seminar on sexual abuse.
- c Councillor McGuinness had attended the Bowling Club meeting recently and felt that the current club was contravening the Deed of Covenant and said that he was looking into it.
- d Councillor Salt gave advance notice of a meeting to be held at the Youth and Community Zone on 23 September 2015 at 6.00 pm about plans to reinstate the park on Church Road, all are welcome.

42. LENGSTHMAN WORK

Any issues to be reported to the Chief Officer. Councillor Sheldon gave notification of some sites to the Chief Officer.

43. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 High Street Crossing

An email has been received to say that there will be a temporary covering of tarmac overlaid onto the crossing in the very near future so that it may be brought back safely into use. Work to do the full repair will then commence once the block paving has been chosen.

Councillor Rogers questioned the logic, why wait, just replace with bricks the same as the ones on all the other ramps in the town.

2 Public Footpath Creation Order

Confirmation Notice received from the County Council that the creation of the public footpath between Portland Drive and Congleton Road comes into force on 19th August. The number of the path will be 161.

3 The Staffordshire Regiment Memorial

The re-dedication of the Staffordshire Regiment Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum is to take place on Saturday 5 September. The Mayor has been invited to attend.

4 Biddulph Youth & Community Zone

All councillors are invited to the official opening celebrations on Saturday 5 September between 11.30am and 2.30pm.

5 Clerk’s Training Day

We will be out of the office tomorrow (19th August) for a training/networking event with other clerks from the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm

SignedDate.....