

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance: members of the Royal British Legion

31.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Redfern

The Town Crier

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: Councillor Sheldon in any item relating to Biddulph in Bloom, as Chair.
Councillors Salt, Jones and Whilding in any item relating to the Royal British Legion, as members.

33. MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 8 September 2015.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve the Minutes of the Tourism sub-committee meeting held on 8 September 2015.

Re: Tourism Minute 11.15: It was proposed by Councillor Salt and seconded by Councillor Sheldon that the new Guide goes ahead and that the Town Council pays the distribution costs of up to £500 from the Tourism budget. All were in favour of this proposal.

34. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS/WAR MEMORIAL

- a Mrs Elaine Rice of the RBL spoke about arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. Assembly at the town hall at 10.00 am; move off at 10.30 am. John Robinson would act as Parade Marshal. There would be a new bugler at the War Memorial. New member Bill was introduced; he was hoping to get a small marching band together for Remembrance Sunday and they were practising regularly. The wreaths had been ordered. The Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra would play in the Victoria Centre following the service. Councillor Rogers thought that it was too short to only do King Street as it is such a big parade. It was agreed to do the longer route but to ask the Town Crier to announce that people with mobility issues could do a shorter route via King Street. Councillor Rogers commented that it would be brilliant to have our own marching band again and agreed to provide a PA system at the Memorial again.
- b Re-siting the War Memorial: the RBL had discussed this at the last meeting and voted to keep it where it is. The War Memorial Trust is not in favour of moving memorials as they are likely to get damaged; also the locations were carefully chosen originally. The War Memorial Trust will give grants towards railings and repair to the bayonet. Mrs Rice also dispelled the rumour that there had been a burial underneath the Memorial.
- c On 11 November 2015 there would be 2 minutes silence at 11.00 am at the War Memorial.

Chair thanked Royal British Legion for their input.

Councillor Hart asked if the subject of moving the Memorial could now be dropped. He proposed that this Council did not consider moving the War Memorial again; this was seconded by Councillor Jackson who was pleased that we could draw a line under this. A vote was taken and all were in favour. Councillor Wood had seen an article in the Sentinel about a young Biddulph man whose name had been missed off the memorial. Mrs Rice and Councillor Wood would look into this.

Councillor McGuinness asked for clarification of why the town had two memorials. Mrs Rice responded that the one at St Lawrence's was for the First World War fallen only, but the one in Biddulph was for the First World War and all subsequent wars.

35. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/SWITCH ON EVENT

The Chair proposed a small working committee to organise this. The first meeting would be held on Thursday 15 October 2015 at 5.30pm. Councillor Jones offered the services of Terrinova for the Switch on event.

36. EVENTS DIRECTOR CONTRACT

The current contract would expire on 31 March 2016. A copy of the current contract would be circulated prior to the next meeting. Councillor Hawley suggested that it should be put out as a fixed price contract. Councillor Jones advised members should think long and hard about this: Miss Brown was doing an excellent job and that the current contract could perhaps be extended. This was endorsed by the Chair. Councillor Hart felt that there were complexities with contracts and that we should look at what we did last time.

37. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a Fingerposts – prices had been obtained; we now need to draw up a firm specification and consider where the post could be sited outside the town hall.
- b Kissing gates – preparation is underway.
- c Steps to Wharf Road Car Park – the steps had been looked at by Property Services and also Development Control and did comply with current legislation.
- d Bowling Green – this excellent facility was now open and many councillors had driven this project and should be thanked. Councillor Swift added that there is an Open weekend this weekend. Councillor Sheldon added her congratulations to all involved.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed Date