

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2015

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer. He then invited Rev'd Pam Butler to lead members in a time of prayer. Rev'd Butler invited all present to observe a minutes silence to remember those affected by recent terror events around the world. The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Walley

43.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Speeding traffic at Biddulph Moor – Jim Kerr to address the meeting.

Mr Jim Kerr was invited to address the meeting and expressed concern about the speed of traffic especially in the Woodhouse Lane, New Street and Rudyard Road areas. He said that the problem was exacerbated by poor parking around the centre of the village which impeded the School Crossing Patrol Officer. Mr Kerr asked if action could be taken before someone was killed.

Councillor Jones fully supported Mr Kerr. He felt that visits by the speed camera van and ticketing with parking enforcement was the answer, along with better signage. He requested that a letter be sent to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council asking for consultation with the Town Council and the residents prior to siting of signage. This was seconded by Councillor Whilding and all were in favour.

- b PCSO's Report:

Sgt Peter Slinn addressed the meeting. He provided statistical information about recent speed checks in the Biddulph Moor area. He noted that the Safer Roads Partnership records all incidents and then checks for the appropriate action.

Councillor Lovatt asked for more details and Sgt Slinn said that he would request this and forward the information to the Chief Officer.

Councillor McGuinness noted that speeding was also a problem in Congleton Road. Councillor Davies reported problems driving across New Street from Woodhouse Lane to Wraggs Lane, due to parking on either side of the junction and asked what could be done.

Sgt Slinn listened patiently and attentively to all the complaints, saying that this area would receive police focus if there was a volume of complaints. Councillor Harper asked if the Lollipop Man had made a formal complaint and PCSO Sherratt replied that he hadn't, as far as he was aware there had only been one complaint about the area made to Staffordshire Police.

Councillor Jones advised residents to log complaints and incidents with Staffordshire Police, this would be collated and it would then be the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council to put parking measures in place.

Councillor Hart mentioned concerns about the Akesmore Lane/Halls Road junction.

Councillor Nicosia wondered if Biddulph Moor residents could be entrusted with parking cones to put out at strategic points and times at Woodhouse Lane junction, for a trial period. Sgt Slinn said he would look into this.

Councillor Lawson wanted 2 more signs and Councillor Hawley felt that motorists were unsure of the speed limit especially on New Street and asked for additional signage.

Sgt Slinn noted that the matrix signs were recording and feeding back information at all times, but he felt that driver education was the best solution. He had arranged a road safety education presentation at Biddulph Fire station on Thursday 19 November 2015 between 7 and 9 pm, aimed especially at young drivers.

Councillor Sheldon added that volume of traffic was increasing by 1000's of new cars each year and that there were, in her opinion, too many cars on the roads.

Sergeant Slinn and PCSO Sherratt were thanked for attending the meeting.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Hart declared a DPI in any matters concerning residential site specifics. Councillor Hawley declared a DPI in his expenses in Accounts of Payment.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon declared an interest in anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom. Councillors Salt and Jones as members of The Royal British Legion.

45. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from

Councillor Redfern

46. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20 October 2015. Re Minute 42; Councillor McGuinness asked if an automatic winder device was included in this amount. The Chief Officer responded

that it was not and would cost considerably more. This would be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 20 October 2015. Re Minute 56, Councillor Salt noted that Sunnydays at Knypersley was also a non-profit making Pre-School.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 21 October 2015. The date was amended
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2015.
- e It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2015.

47. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor listed her engagements from the previous month.

48. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

The Chief Officer reported that meeting had been well attended, despite conflicting sports and music events. Six Advisors had been present, also The Mayor, Town Crier, Councillor Sheldon, PCSO Sherratt and Rachel Butcher – Programme Manager of Staffordshire Safety Net CIC.

The Mayor talked to the students about her duties, the history of her Office and the civic nature and work of the Council. Councillor Baddeley then passed the Mayoral chain around for inspection.

Mr Robinson gave a talk on his role of 21 years as Biddulph Town Crier and latterly Fusignano Town Crier. He passed the bell round and explained its origins.

Councillor Sheldon talked about the work of Biddulph in Bloom.

PCSO Sherratt mentioned that the Chief Constable of Staffordshire had expressed an interest in the Youth Advisor initiative and would be attending the meeting to be held on 19 April 2016. He added that the Chief Constable was willing to attend the Town Council meeting on that same evening if invited.

Rachel Butcher talked about her work with the schools in promoting safe behaviour to students.

The Youth Advisors asked about the site allocations and the Neighbourhood Plan, and about the future of the old Doctors surgeries on Well Street. Concern was raised about dangers experienced when crossing Park Lane after attending extra-curricular events, in particular the lack of lighting and the speed of the traffic.

Councillor Sheldon reported that it had been a lovely meeting; she had learnt a lot about the historical importance of both the Town Mayor and Town Crier.

Councillor Rogers proposed that the Chief Constable be invited to attend the meeting of the Town Council in April, this was seconded by Councillor Hall and all were in favour.

49. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market float, inc stall construction	166.05
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – market/car boot advert	28.08

Gala Tent Ltd – 2x gazebos from Event Director budget <i>(paid by credit card)</i>	667.92
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - wreath	25.00
Refreshments – Remembrance Sunday	20.28
Councillor D Hawley – travel expenses, Planning seminar	20.25
Councillor D Hawley – room hire, NP workshop Biddulph Moor	35.00
St Lawrence’s Church Hall -Room hire, NP workshop Biddulph North/Gillow Heath	85.00
SMDC – workshop at Biddulph town hall 2 December	tbc
<i>Councillor Hawley suggested that the District Council be invoiced for the full amount for the use of the Council Chamber for a recent Planning site allocation consultation event.</i>	
Npower – Christmas lighting standing charge, quarter <i>(paid by credit card to avoid late payment charge)</i>	52.05
Protech – 67% of installation/removal of lighting (as per contract)	10,346.12
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
Kent County Council – copier/printing charges	61.79
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit 7/12/15)	1,689.27
Salaries	4,201.25
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,637.92
Petty cash	20.70
Adare SEC Ltd – Minute Book sheets (4 packs)	220.22
Cash – B Stanway, table, chairs & parasol for market cafe	16.00
Staffordshire Parish Council’s Association – planning course	35.00
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – Burial Grounds tender	55.20

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed Date.....