

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2016

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer. He invited Rev'd Derek Balsdon to lead members in a time of prayer. This included a time of reflection following the recent death of Councillor Redfern's Mother Gladys Beckett, Mayoress of Biddulph 2001-2. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

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

64.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Youth Advisor, Dominic Axford was invited to speak on work experience and part-time work for young people. Dom said that he was speaking on behalf of the youth of Biddulph and was here to ask the Town Council to facilitate by approaching local businesses. He had carried out a survey of his peers and found that youth employment was a huge issue; he talked about specific problems in Biddulph. He thanked Councillor Sheldon and Mrs Thacker for their help and said that having a part time job was a big help for future prospects.

In Biddulph, 17% of young people had part time or temporary jobs including paper rounds, adding that these were not gained by responding to adverts. The rate in other parts of the country was 49%. 60% of young people in Biddulph were actively looking for work, but were struggling; they had much to offer to the economy of the town and should not be left to go to waste.

The Chief Officer read a note from the Deputy Mayor – 'In terms of work experience - if I become Mayor, I am more than willing to have a young person come along with me to events if they've a keen interest in politics, democracy and community. It's something Congleton do with their 'Mayors Cadet'. Young people apply and one is selected to work alongside the Mayor for their year in office. I think that this would be a lovely thing for Biddulph to adopt?'

Councillor Lawson asked if the problem was transport related. Dom said not for part time work, the problem was the lack of communication between interested parties.

Councillor Sheldon thanked Dom for giving an insight into the problems, she felt that everybody had a part to play and hoped that fellow councillors would put on

their thinking caps to help the young people find work experience and part time positions.

Councillor Hall congratulated Dom on his confidence and expertise, assuring him that this Council would look for ways to assist and help to reduce the problem.

Councillor Jackson reiterated Councillor Hall's words, adding that it had been easier in the past; even careers advice in schools had changed, guidance should be offered to local businesses and young people to make matches. Health and Safety guidelines gave prospective employers concern. Councillor Jackson noted that Staffordshire Moorlands had £5,000,000 for certain wards for 18-24s and over 55 year olds to break down barriers to work.

Councillor Wood supported what had been said, adding that he was involved with the Fire Service and would approach the Chief Fire Officer to see if there were possibilities to give some young people an insight into the work of the Fire Service.

Councillor Jones congratulated Dom noting that there were two aspects - work experience and part time jobs. He would approach his employers – the Ambulance Service. Councillor Jones wondered if this Council could help with some of the paperwork which may be off putting to small businesses.

Councillor Harper asked where young people went at present. Dom replied mostly in the Moorlands and Congleton, he felt that students should be choosing places on vocation rather than location issues. There were approximately 75-80 students currently seeking part time employment.

- b PCSO's report
 - i PCSO Sherratt announced that the manager of Sainsbury's would be attending the March meeting of the Youth Advisors and Chief Constable Sawyers would be at the April meeting.
 - ii There had been reports of suspicious incidents around horse premises, a silver Volvo with false plates has been spotted in the vicinity. Please report on 999.
 - iii The Warwick Street incident would be dealt with by the end of the month, it was a known suspect.
 - iv Wednesday May 11 2016, between 11am -3pm there would a great Biddulph Bake Off community event at Washington Close, with input from The Roaches and Biddulph High Schools, to commemorate Her Majesty's 90th birthday.
 - v Councillor Jackson asked for an update on a recent accident on Park Lane where three gardens had been demolished – PCSO Sherratt said that the person responsible was being dealt with.
 - vi Councillor Lawson had been asked by The Sentinel for an update on the Gillow Heath robbery – it was still on the books. He was informed that the offenders were being sought; but was being dealt with by CID
 - vii Councillor Lawson noted that a caravan had been sheeted and parked in a turning area – PCSO Sherratt said that this was a matter for the parking enforcement team.
 - viii Councillor Sheldon noted that huge numbers of young people in large gangs were in the town, people were feeling intimidated – PCSO Sherratt replied that talks with Sainsbury's for a solution were taking place at the moment.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations.
Councillor Sheldon declared interest in anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared.

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Hart
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rushton

67. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19 January 2016.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 19 January 2016.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9 February 2016.
- d It was **Resolved** to Receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 9 February 2016. Re: Minute 53c – to read Biddulph Town.

68. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a successful dance raising £400 for her charities. Biddulph Male Voice Choir would be holding a concert for her on Saturday 27 February 2016 at Biddulph Town Hall.

A message of condolence would be sent to Councillor Redfern from this Council.

69. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

No meeting – half term.

70. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Ironage Designs – 25% deposit for kissing gate work	1,881.25
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
Severn Trent Water – water, Woodhouse Burial Ground	20.51
Npower – Christmas lighting charge, town hall meter	80.09
SLCC – updated Clerk's Manual	50.50
Kent County Council – photocopier	91.37
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit 5/3/16)	1,699.43
Salaries	4,217.94
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,645.55
Severn Trent Water – Town Burial Ground/Churchyard	61.59
Petty cash	9.38
D Allcock – Lengthsman work, skip & removal of Christmas tree	395.00

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed Date.....