

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Hart - Chair
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance:
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley

102.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from
Councillor Court
Councillor Wood

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon declared in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Hart declared an interest in any matters concerning site specifics to do with the Local Plan.
- b Other Disclosable Interests. None were declared.

104. MINUTES

It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 16 February 2016.

105. HEARING LOOP FOR THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

An email acknowledging receipt of the letter to Mr Baker had been received, Paul Hare would respond by 23 March 2016

106. PUBLIC CLOCK SITED AT ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

It had been confirmed that the Captain of the Belltower currently wound the clock weekly and was prepared to do this until his retirement later in 2016. The Chief Officer confirmed that if the clock was serviced annually the alteration would fall within the agreement as stated. The Chief Officer would contact Gill Bayliss, SMDC

Conservation Officer, for information on other clock companies to seek additional quotes for the installation of an automatic winder. Confirmation would be sought from Smith of Derby that the maintenance contract would still be valid if the installation was carried out by a different company.

107. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

An copy of an email sent to County Councillor Deaville had been tabled. The email had listed the points as discussed at the February meeting.

Councillor Rogers reported that from his vantage point in a town centre store, he knew that the parking enforcement officers mostly drove through the town in a red van rather than patrolling on foot.

Councillor Redfern noted that the only good thing about the lack of enforcement officers was that he was not receiving calls from people who had been ticketed when dropping off elderly people at the Health Centre.

Councillor Hart was not amused and refused to allow Councillor Redfern to speak again.

Councillor Lawson again reported that one of the High Street businesses with premises on the corner of South View had concerns that buses and other large vehicles were hitting part of the pavement when turning into South View and that this was causing structural damage to their buildings.

Councillor Salt wondered if Chevrons on the pavement edge would help to stop parking opposite to the bus stop. Councillor Hart responded that it would not as it was mostly disabled parking at that point.

Councillor Jones wondered if the simple solution would be to remove the temporary bus stop. Councillor Hart noted that all possibilities would be considered.

Councillor Nicosia felt that to pedestrianise the High Street would resolve the congestion. Councillor Hart pointed out that this was considered previously but had received opposition from the then named Biddulph Chamber of Trade and the bus companies. Councillor Nicosia responded that the buses parking with their engines running emitting exhaust fumes, was unacceptable where pedestrians were going to and fro and may lead to health problems. Councillor Hart responded that all proposals would be considered to achieve a suitable result.

Councillor Harper wondered why the wardens were being paid if they were not carrying out their duties. Councillor Hart agreed and felt that this Council had a duty to inform the County Council that it was not getting the service for which it had paid.

Councillor McGuinness clarified the rules for blue badge holder parking.

108. MEETINGS ATTENDED DURING THE MONTH

Reports from members attending meetings of outside bodies where important information relating to Biddulph has been received.

Councillor Hart left the Chamber and Councillor Jones took the Chair for the following items:

- a Councillor Hawley reported on the two recent meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Working which had discussed the draft site allocations. The comments of the group had been sent out to all Biddulph District Councillors who were to meet the following day (17 March 2016).
- b Councillor Hawley had also attended a meeting of the Biddulph Trust Learners Forum (the former Schools Council) where he had given an outline of the Neighbourhood Plan and received many varied and lively questions.

Councillor Hart re-took the Chair

- c Councillor Rogers had attended a meeting of the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association in Stafford. There had not been anything relating to Biddulph.
- d Councillor Lawson had attended a meeting where the proposed rail link between Stoke on Trent and Biddulph had been discussed. He added that there was a genuine effort to replace the link. Councillor Lawson noted that Kidsgrove Rail Station was to receive £6.8 million for its upgrade.
- e Councillor Jackson noted that Biddulph Sports Awards would be held on Friday 18 March 2016 at Knypersley Cricket Club from 7.00 pm. All welcome.
- f Councillor McGuinness gave a brief report on buses in the town, he would send a precis to the Chief Officer to be circulated to members. Mr Adrian Lawton would be holding an exhibition of the first 100 years of transport in the town, to be held at Biddulph Library from 16 – 23 March 2016. Councillor McGuinness would attend on two of the days to gain public opinion.
- g Councillor Rogers noted that the District Council would be holding a consultation on Halls Road Playing fields the following day, 16 March 2016 between 12 and 6.45 pm in the rooms to the rear of the Town Hall. Councillor Hart responded that he hoped to ask them to hold it again, with better publicity.
- h Councillor Hart noted that the item about Bemersley Household Waste and Recycling Centre (BHWRC) at the following month's meeting would have a timed slot of no more than 45 minutes and advised members should be concise and precise; thought should be given to the questions which should be as non-political as possible. A meeting of the BHWRC working group would be held prior to the day; the Chief Officer would circulate possible dates and times. New members were welcome to join the working group, names of those interested to the Chief Officer.

109. LENGTHSMAN

To receive reports of highway issues suitable for the Lengthsman scheme - none received.

110. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Biddulph in Bloom

A copy of the accounts for the last financial year have been received.

2 Invitation to Chief Constable

Jane Sawyers, the Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police, is unable to attend the April meeting of the Town Council, but would be very pleased to attend at another time.

3 Allotments AGM

To be held at 7pm on Wednesday 30 March

4 Biddulph Bowling Club logo

Copies of the two possible alternatives have been received for approval. These were circulated, Councillor Davies proposed the 'Biddulph Town' version,

seconded by Councillor Rushton, it was noted that the logo would also include the words Bowling Club

5 Temporary traffic order – Mow Lane & Halls road

Temporary closure from the junction with A527 from 13 April 2016 and between the hours of 9.30 am and 15.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed Date