

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2018

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor McGuinness
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Davies
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding

also in attendance

Councillor Hawley

35. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rushton

Councillor Flunder

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom
- b) Other Interests: Councillors Court, Jones, Salt, Whilding were members of the Royal British Legion. Councillor Salt was a board member at the Biddulph Youth and Community Zone.

37. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 October 2018 were signed as an accurate record.
- b) The Minutes of the Cenotaph and Centenary Working Group meeting held on 8 October 2018 was received.
- c) The Minutes of the Cenotaph and Centenary Working Group meeting held on 22 October 2018 were received. Councillor Jones noted that many people had worked hard, including the Officers of this Council; the events had gone really well. He congratulated those who had contributed.

- d) The Minutes of the Young People's Working Group meeting held on Monday 22 October 2018 were received.
- e) The Minutes of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 24 October 2018 were received.

38. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR 2019/20

Councillor Davies reported that this Committee was on target with the budget. Councillor Salt proposed including money for the restoration of the cenotaph. This was agreed. Councillor Jones suggested including £300 for the Christmas tree on Biddulph Moor, if he was not re-elected. This was not agreed. Councillor Salt noted that the Christmas Lights contract was under negotiation and would probably increase. Councillor Hart proposed that the Finance Committee should make the final decision; quotations were yet to be received. There were no other recommendations; this was seconded by Councillor McGuinness and agreed.

39. STATION ROAD UPDATE

A Tender Report document was circulated. Councillor Davies noted that the architect was reconsidering the options with the sum of money available, priorities from the previous meeting had been put forward.

Councillor Davies pointed members to certain points, 6.7 the provisional sum of £8000 for a memorial. 6.11, paving would be ideal for the other circle but had not been included in the costs. 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 the conclusion that the work identified, and the total would be slightly more than had been budgeted.

The next stage for the architect was discussion with the contractors to bring the price down to the budget.

Councillor Rogers felt in relation to 6.7 that the memorial could be sourced for a cheaper cost.

Councillor Jones felt that if we could afford three circles, they should all be paved, this was seconded by Councillor Salt who added that money from reserves needed to be used.

Councillor Hart said this was the proverbial 'ha'porth of tar' situation; this was partly a regeneration project. Councillor Hart thought the memorial should stay as planned.

Councillor Salt wondered if someone else could be found to create the memorial. Officers should be given permission to look for a stone mason to create something suitable.

Councillor Jones asked if the other three circles could be included later. Councillor Davies said it would depend on the Sainsbury's road options.

Councillor Rogers noted that circle one was already there and just needed 'feckling up'.

Councillor Salt wondered if the press should be asked to highlight the delay caused by Sainsbury's. Councillor Davies would prefer this to wait until the January meeting.

Councillor Hall noted that the District Council officers had begun discussions with Sainsbury's about the spur of land.

Councillor McGuinness remembered that a few months ago the coal board had money available to contribute towards engraving on mining memorials. He would forward the information to the Chief Officer.

Councillor Davies summed up that agreement had been made to move forward; the Chief Officer would investigate local stone masons and a cost for paving the third circle would be sought. This was proposed by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Hall and agreed.

Councillor Jackson would like to see an up-to-date drawing, with the three circles that had been agreed.

40. DEBRIEF FOLLOWING CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

Councillor Davies felt that this was a very ambitious project, which had been done exceedingly well. There had been a great response from the people of Biddulph to this commemoration. A great deal of interest and a great deal of respect to this tribute in the town.

Councillor Hall thanked the staff who had gone 'over and above', he congratulated the efforts.

Councillor Jones noted the amazing commitment of staff; we owe them a big debt of gratitude.

Councillor Jackson noted that John Robinson – Town Crier – should be included, he had run everything to perfection, it had been poignant, touching and hit the spot.

Councillor Hart praised the leaflet, very professional and helped concentrate people's thoughts.

Councillor Salt thanked the community from all four corners of the community who helped to put the events on.

Councillor Davies listed some of the people who had helped to make the events a success and those who had made the ultimate sacrifice

Councillor Salt suggested that a montage of photos taken during the eleven days could be made into a thank you card, to be given to all who had taken part.

Councillor Rogers noted that a local amateur photographer John Baddeley had taken some photos on Remembrance Sunday.

Councillor Salt had also sent some photographs to the Chronicle. Beth Duda had taken over 200 photographs at the Festival of Remembrance, which would need to be stored on a memory stick.

The Chief Officer noted that there would be a few more expenses incurred: thank you cards and a memory stick. There had been over 5000 people involved in the events over the past two weeks, as a conservative estimate.

Councillor Salt noted that because of the rock painting event, Biddulph Hiking and Mountaineering Club would be walking in the Brecon Beacons and abseiling in the Horseshoe Falls as a sponsored event to raise money to combat stress. Councillor Salt would be joining them. Sponsorship forms to follow.

41. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UPDATE

The Chief Officer noted that the layout for the Biddulph event would be slightly different. Stalls would be at the southern end and the lantern parade would congregate at the Victoria Centre and process along Cross Street and southwards on High Street. The procession would be led by Churches Together and a Walking Nativity scene. It would stop at various points to sing hymns and perform.

The Mayor would turn on the lights; assisted by a group of young people who all make a quiet contribution to the town.

The following week, the Biddulph Moor event would take place. The newly purchased snow machine would make its debut.

Councillor Jackson reminded Councillor Jones to book the gritters!

42. UPDATE ON LICENSES PENDING FROM STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chief Officer reported that there were several licences pending:
Relocation of the Twinning Plaque, which had been restored
Lighting at the front of the Town Hall
A television in the foyer of the Town Hall

Councillor Jackson asked when the damaged carpet would be replaced. Councillor Hall had met the Executive Officer the previous week; he would progress these outstanding works.

43. CONSIDERATION OF EVENT SIGNAGE COSTS AND LOGISTICS

Councillor Davies reported that this Council had been hit with the high cost of signage for the Artisan Market, which had to be put out and taken away each month. The issue had arisen because of the Road Traffic Act 2016. Some signage must be erected three days before the event, some immediately before, prior to 6.00 am – unsocial hours. There were no complaints about the service except that it was expensive. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had given a grant to cover the cost to the end of the year.

The Events and Partnerships Officer was investigating costs for barriers to cover all the events: Artisan Markets, Christmas Lights in town and Biddulph Moor, the Well Dressing. A synopsis of the costs was given, purchase of the signs, storage and contractor to erect and dismantle them. The signage would be £2200 to £2400, the cost and necessity of some of the cones was being challenged.

Councillor Jones suggested that Councillors could put some of them out. Councillor Davies noted that tentative discussion was taking place with the Lengthsman and others. Councillor Rogers felt that the signs should say High Street closed for market, to bring people in not drive them away. The Events and Partnerships Officer had requested site specific signs. Councillor Rogers questioned the use of the word 'Artisan', adding that people prefer a street market. The Events and Partnerships Officer noted that artisans who attended the market would disagree.

Councillor Hart proposed investigating the costs of hiring a contractor. The Chief Officer noted that it would not be necessary to tender for the work as it would be on an ad hoc basis, and not a significant cost.

Councillor Lawson questioned if the signs would cover Festival events too; this would be possible.

Councillor Jones noted that for events to be sustainable this Council needs to employ people to do the work long-term.

Councillor Salt asked if further District Council funding was available for the purchase and distribution of signs. Councillor Davies was hopeful, it had been discussed.

Councillor Salt noted that District Councillor Wain had not, to her knowledge, visited the November market as had been suggested.

Councillor Baddeley noted that Congleton was heaving on market day. Councillor Davies responded that we were trying to build up numbers of stalls, but a large footfall was needed first to attract new traders.

Councillor Hart proposed that the Chief Officer be authorised to make a reasonable judgement, seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

Councillor Salt cautioned against further expense until commitment was received from the District Council. Councillor Davies noted that the signs were needed for other events, not just the Artisan Market.

44. CONSIDERATION OF FINGERPOST SIGNAGE ON BIDDULPH MOOR

Councillor Jones noted that there were two existing posts near the Village Green. Councillor Hawley suggested that one post could be for Highway directions and the other for the new fingers. The Chief Officer noted that the new fingers in town would be installed the following Friday.

45. TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON DETACHED YOUTH WORKERS (DISCUSSED AT AUGUST 2018 FINANCE COMMITTEE, FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION FROM YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP)

The Chief Officer reported that there had been a recommendation from the Young People's Working Group meeting, which had been received by the Finance Committee meeting in August. The proposal was to trial the funding of two detached youth workers for 30 weeks, who would work in Biddulph High Street

for three hours on Friday evenings. The cost would be in the region of £3,000. The Finance Committee had agreed to this, in principle.

The Biddulph Youth and Community Zone (BYCZ) had secured funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for diversionary funding; the two detached workers would complement this nicely, working in key risk areas. They could signpost young people to the Youth Zone and offer support and guidance on the street too.

Councillor Jones proposed giving the scheme a try; it was not a big cost. Councillor Salt noted that the Council could access the PCC proceeds of crime fund, but there may be a conflict for this trial. This was seconded by Councillor Hart.

The Chief Officer noted that the role of the detached youth worker could include education in what constitutes anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the risk involved; engagement in positive activities. Their presence would also discourage ASB.

Councillor Jones was prepared to trial the idea; it would help to steer children in the right direction.

Councillor Salt noted that residents were in favour; it would demonstrate that this Council takes seriously the concerns of the people. Youth workers existed 5-7 years ago until resources were removed.

Councillor Jackson agreed, there had been an epidemic of knife crime throughout the country, young people in Biddulph may be carrying knives; having adult trained youth workers around who could 'nip this in the bud' before it started would be immeasurable. It had to be worth the relatively small amount of money.

Councillor McGuinness added that the workers could evaluate and report back, it was well overdue.

46. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There were no additional items to consider.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

Signed Date