

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2018

Councillor Davies congratulated Councillor Sheldon and Biddulph in Bloom. The group had been awarded Gold in the Britain in Bloom competition again, and invited to represent the Heart of England at the national competition in 2019. Councillor Davies added that the group made our town beautiful. A round of applause followed. Councillor Sheldon thanked Councillor Davies for his kind comments and praised the volunteers; without them it wouldn't happen.

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor McGuinness
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Davies
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jones
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance
Councillor Harper
Councillor Nicosia

27. APOLOGIES

Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None
- b) Other Interests: Minute 31, Councillor Hall was a fellow member of Biddulph Rotary with a stall holder at the Artisan Market.

29. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 September 2018 were signed as an accurate record.
- b) The Minutes of the Cenotaph and Centenary Working Group meeting held on 10 September 2018 was received.
- c) The Minutes of the Christmas Lights working Group meeting held on 26 August 2018 were received.

30. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR HART - TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF A NOTICEBOARD AT HALLS ROAD RECREATION AREA

Councillor Hart had seen how popular Halls Road playing fields had become; lots of people utilising the facilities which had been installed. It was immensely popular and used by many groups every weekend.

Several people had suggested to Councillor Hart that a noticeboard could be installed at the site, advertising local clubs and Town Council information. The Chief Officer would investigate further.

Councillor Rogers asked who would supply the information and who would update the board. Councillor Hart volunteered to do this, seconded by Councillor Rogers and agreed.

Councillor Wood expressed concern, noting that there were many self-organising activities at the site and there was a possibility of vandalism. He queried the benefits and type of information to be displayed.

Councillor Jones thought it could advertise what was happening at the playing fields and locally, and possibly have a reminder about picking up dog poo; he thought this was a great idea and should be investigated.

Councillor Swift noted that the Bowling Club had a noticeboard, and asked if the District Council should pay the costs as it was on their land.

Councillor Hart suggested requesting funds from the Leader of the District Council. He proposed investigating the viability and identifying suitable funding, this was seconded by Councillor Davies.

Councillor Hart added that people gathered at the site from all over Biddulph and from outside; it would be a community noticeboard.

Councillor Jones wondered if a more appropriate location would be the Gillow Heath Station site.

31. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON:

• **GILLOW HEATH STATION RESTORATION PROJECT**

A bid had been made to Moorlands Partnership Board (MPB) for work at the Biddulph Grange Country Park; part of this application was funding for a station bench on the site of the old Gillow Heath Station. Tentative discussions had taken place about location, sourcing a bench and exact design; and discussions had taken place with representatives of the Biddulph and District Genealogical Society as regards the history of the site. The Chief Officer noted that this now appeared to be a four stage project, and sought Councillors views and their approval to continue to develop these ideas.

Stage one would be moving the fence on the District Council land and installation of benches. Stage two would be restoring the edge of the platform and the

possibility of asking if anyone has any old bricks. Stage four is the installation of signage and interpretation boards.

Finally, stage four is the nearby footbridge, constructed using the old rails, which is one of only two in the country, the other being at Rudyard Lake. It is important to tell the story and restore the bridge too. Councillor Rogers noted that the bridge is in need of restoration, but it is a big job.

Councillor Davies noted that there could be other avenues of funding to renovate railway relics.

Councillor Wood added that a noticeboard could be added with a map of the Biddulph Valley Way and other local information, adding that the amount of people using the route was phenomenal.

Councillor Hart noted that Biddulph's entire heritage was out in the countryside and, as it deteriorated, it needed repair and restoration.

- **ARTISAN MARKET SIGNAGE AND FUNDING**

The Chief Officer reported that Biddulph Town Council had recently received £2000 from SMDC to support the Artisan Market; she would be meeting with Terry Crawford to discuss funding for 2019.

Following the market the previous Friday, the market equipment had been moved to its new location in a dry and safe environment. The tenancy for the garage had now been terminated.

Councillor Rogers felt that the new market road signs portrayed major roadworks in the town and encouraged motorists to stay away.

Councillor Hall noted that officers at the District Council were in discussion with officers at the County Council to 'solve' the signage problem.

Councillor Wood noted that Portfolio Holder for Planning Development and Property, Councillor Wain, had said that he would assist Biddulph and hoped to visit the November Artisan Market.

Councillor Hart noted that Fresh Food Friday was a huge success. The Chief Officer wondered about extending this in the New Year, following discussions at the end of the market season.

Councillor Jones was grateful to Councillor Wood for raising the profile of this situation.

Councillor Davies noted that the Biddulph Artisan Market had stood as an independent market until very recently.

Councillor Salt noted with regard to the signage, officers had investigated and followed the letter of the law.

- **STATION ROAD DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Davies and the Chief Officer had met with bp Architecture to inform Ms Poole of the situation. She would breakdown the costs for the items prioritised by this Committee and work with potential contractors to provide additional options, noting the priorities identified previously.

Councillor Salt queried whether anything had been received from Sainsbury's; the Chief Officer confirmed that it had not and she had referred this to Dai Larnar at the District Council. Councillor Hall believed this had been actioned

- **FINGERPOSTS AND REPLACEMENT GLASS IN THE TOWN HALL NOTICEBOARD**

The Chief Officer noted that new fingers can be added to existing posts without the need for a Highways application to dig up the road. The posts in Wharf Road Car Park and at the junction with Tunstall Road and High Street could have the additional fingers: Library/ Health Centre on one and Library, Toilets and Shops on the other at a cost of £155 per finger. This was agreed.

The installation of two other posts would be reconsidered. Councillor Jones noted that there were two finger posts at Biddulph Moor, perhaps they could be better utilised. He would bring photographs to the next meeting.

Replacement Perspex for the noticeboard at the Town Hall would cost £195 for supply. Caretaker Alan had offered to install it. It was agreed to proceed with new Perspex.

- **LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOWN CENTRE EVENTS**

The Chief Officer reported that the Designated Premises Supervisor Mr Eddie Blockley had designated the Chief Officer as his Deputy. The Chief Officer requested permission to extend the area covered by the Premises License, so that temporary events notice would no longer be required.

Councillor Davies suggested that the area covered should be from Snelson's in the North to the CAB in the south, and from Wharf Road toilets in the west to the top end of King Street in the East. There would be a small administration cost in the region of £100. This was agreed.

Councillor Davies proposed that Standing Orders are suspended to enable County Councillor Flunder to address the meeting. This was agreed.

Councillor Flunder reported that he had spoken to David Greatbatch in the County council Highways team, and the work on the barriers at Knypersley Crossroads would begin 29 October 2018, during half term week. Councillor Nicosia expressed her thanks to Councillor Flunder and Councillor Jones expressed his thanks to Councillor Nicosia for her part in getting this work done.

Standing Orders were resumed.

32. TO NOTE THAT THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TENDER WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE NOVEMBER 2018 CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING

A draft specification was circulated for information.

The Chief Officer gave a brief overview of the document, adding that the tender would need to be advertised on Contract Finder. She proposed a five year contract which would provide stability and the opportunity for forward planning with regard to spend associated with replacement bulbs and decoration. The Chief Officer hoped to present completed tenders at November meetings.

Councillor Hawley expressed concern that some of the dates would cause the Biddulph Moor event to be later in December. Councillor Jones noted that the town event had always been on the last Saturday in the month.

Councillor Rogers suggested that the event on Biddulph Moor could be held on the Sunday in such years.

Councillor Davies noted that others who attend the switch on would have other commitments on alternative dates, i.e. the funfair.

Councillors Jones and Hawley would take this information to the next meeting of the Biddulph Moor group and report back.

Councillor Salt suggested the addition of an Equality and Diversity Policy as a requirement. This was agreed.

33. TO CONSIDER LIST OF ONGOING PROJECT

A list of projects which were ongoing was circulated. The Chief Officer could add narrative to each item for the next meeting, if the Chair felt this was appropriate.

34. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Davis expressed concern about damage to the drainage blocks at the roundabouts on the A527. This was a nationwide problem and a solution was being sought.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed Date