

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; Pastor Mark Holdcroft was invited to lead a time of prayer.

The Mayor opened the meeting and informed members that Councillor Jackson had suffered a close family bereavement. A card of condolence would be sent from this Council. The family had requested that instead of a floral tribute a collection could be taken for the Brockington Mother and Baby Unit in Stafford. The Town Council sends its best wishes to the family.

The Mayor announced that the Biddulph Chronicle Reporter Tom would be leaving, he was presented with a Biddulph bag with commemorative items. Members of the Town Council wished him well with this new venture.

PRESENT

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

36.18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting to adjourn for up to 20 minutes (Standing Order 1d-f) to allow for public participation. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Mayor. Members of the public wishing to raise issues which are not on the Agenda should notify the Chief Officer five working days before the meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.

- Presentation to Dave Davies - Staffordshire Fire Service

The Mayor presented Mr Davies with a gift – an inscribed silver tankard – and card on behalf of the town, to mark his many years of service. Councillor Rogers thanked Mr Davies noting especially his help with the Festival bunting. Councillor Jones had always found Mr Davies most approachable; he had helped this town in many ways as well as keeping us all safe. Councillor Rushton thanked Mr Davies for all his help at the Fun Days and at BRIC.

- Biddulph Youth and Community Zone (BYCZ) - removal of funding

Mel Hilton, Chair of BYCZ gave an update on the vibrant multi-purpose organisation, catering for all ages, pre-school to the elderly. BYCZ had become a resource for the entire town and was set-up by a group of volunteers. Long-term sustainability was the key focus. Mel was looking at new and innovative ways to raise funds. Staffordshire County Council proposed cuts to SCVYS (The Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services) was disappointing; leaving many people vulnerable and exposed, and was contrary to the policy of helping groups to do things for themselves.

Councillor Lovatt proposed writing to the County Council noting that organisations like BYCZ were under threat if these funds were withdrawn, this was seconded by Councillor Walley; the letter to be sent forthwith.

Councillor Jones added that with BYCZ, buses, crossing patrol, and library provision, this Council seemed to be writing a letter every week; it had to stop, the Town Council could not keep picking up the bill.

Councillor Lawson noted that he had been fighting the cuts, but there would be a penalty imposed on the County Council for not balancing the budget in May, which would far outweigh these cuts. Councillor Lawson added that there would be staff and public consultation on this matter.

Councillor Jones responded that all other consultations had been ignored.

Councillor Davies felt that this action was very short sighted. The County Council supported volunteers and there was extra value obtained from what was put in. Councillor Davies thought it absolutely criminal to cut the services, and this Council must support BYCZ in any way it could.

Councillor Salt abstained from the vote, as a member of the BYCZ board.

- Voluntary and Community Transport funding

Joan Mason reported that the scheme would be losing funding from the County Council and was doing what it could to raise funds. There were 2156 journeys last year including 214 to the various hospitals. This year, between April and June, there had been 317 trips to hospitals carried out by 14 voluntary drivers. 18+ people had been collected from Biddulph Moor when the 93 bus had not been running.

Mrs Mason added that people were being sent to clinics from Nantwich to Cobridge, and some places which you cannot get to by bus. Many people could not drive themselves to appointments, due to the nature of the illness and/or the treatment given.

A survey would be given out to all those who used the service that week, including asking how much they would be prepared to pay. The findings would be sent to the coordinators in Leek. Consideration was being given to seeking sponsorship from local firms to counter the £30,000 annual shortfall. A copy of the questionnaire would be sent to the office for circulation to members.

Councillor Hart asked how much funding would be lost.

Councillor Sheldon thanked all the volunteers for their support, especially to one of her neighbours.

Councillor Lovatt felt it was heart-breaking month after month to listen to all these stories and proposed adding this to the previous letter.

Councillor Salt asked if the money could be saved from somewhere else and asked if the cuts included the Chairman's car and drivers.

Councillor Lawson confirmed that this was a proposal. He added that we had heard from two very deserving people who deserved support.

Councillor Jones added that it was beholden upon our County Councillors to make a fuss about the cuts rather than to defend them.

Councillor Hawley thought it seemed a false economy to make cuts at the top and pass them down the line. Either the District or Town Council picked them up and added the costs to the precept; ultimately the same people were paying for it. It may as well be funded at the top and added to the Council Tax. To keep the services which were required, the County would have to stand up to central government.

Councillor Rogers felt that if this Council worked with the County Council and did not fight against it, we might get further.

Councillor McGuinness added that this was an essential service and needed to be retained in Biddulph.

Councillor Lovatt proposed adding this to the previous letter, seconded by Councillor Whilding. It was noted that Councillor Salt voted in favour of this addition.

37. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Harper
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Wood

Apologies were also received from
County Councillor Flunder

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Lovatt was an allotment holder. Councillors Court, Jones, Salt and Whilding were members of the British Legion. Councillor Salt was a board member of BYCZ. Minute 42 Councillor Salt's son attended Knypersley First School.

39. MINUTES

- a) It was moved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting the Town Council held on 18 September 2018. Minute 35 replace Councillor Hart with Councillor Salt.
- b) It was moved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 18 September 2018.
- c) It was moved to receive the Minutes of the General Purpose Committee meeting held on 18 September 2018.
- d) It was moved to approve and sign the Minutes of the Committee Structure Working Group meeting held on 28 September 2018.
- e) It was moved to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 October 2018.
- f) It was moved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 9 October 2018. Councillor Hart noted that members of Churnet Valley Railway may have located some platform bricks.

40. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had attended the Dementia Cinema screening of The Sound of Music; North Ward meeting at the Bowling Club; the Chairman's Ball at Alton Towers and a Celebration of 10 years of the Moorland Road allotment site, with a chef demonstration.

Councillor Jones reminded the Mayor of the 'Pie and Pea Supper' to be held on 16 November 2018, tickets were available and the entertainment would be provided by Rock n Roll group 'Still Standing'.

41. TO NOTE ARRANGEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO MARK THE CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Chief Officer highlighted the leaflet detailing the programme of events; copies of which were tabled. The Chief Officer thanked SMDC for the grant towards the project. It would be an interesting 11 days of diverse activities.

Councillor Hart would feature the events in his next Moorlands Radio broadcast.

Councillor Salt noted that 4 children from 7 local schools would be visiting the National Arboretum and taking part in two activities. Councillors would be welcome to join them, but would have to provide their own transport as the coach was full.

42. TO NOTE THE CONTENTS OF A LETTER FROM KNYPERSLEY FIRST SCHOOL IN RELATION TO THE CREATION OF A MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

This was received.

Councillor Lawson had quietly approached the County Council to find out who paid for the crossing patrol at an Academy schools; if it was the government this could help the situation. Councillor Salt noted that all patrols are paid by the County Council as it is a Highways issue, so becoming an Academy would not have an impact.

43. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment

Expenditure in excess of £500

Mazars Audit work for year ending 31 March 2018	1008.00
Ebm printers Printing of 9000 Biddulph Remembers leaflets	548.00
Protech Electrical Limited Inspection, test and repair Christmas Lights in preparation for Christmas 2018 replace lampholders and connections, tested 58 brackets 8 test certificates as requested by e-on	4665.60
Raymond Gibson T/A Gardens and Groundworks Storage of Artisan Market equipment for six months Monthly transportation to and from the market	1100.00
P A Martin T/A P and R Graphics Supply and install 1 post mounted black Plaza sign at entrance to Woodhouse Burial Ground	986.40
RG Standell Lengthsman work including hedge cutting at Whitemoor, grass cutting at Congleton Road, Tower Hill road, Albert Street and Haydon park.	1109.00

Expenditure below £500

Viking Direct Office stationery supplies	273.45
Cllr J Davies Electrical transformer for lights switch on Npower	81.59
Christmas lights standing charge	5.33
Brian Carter Un/lock Woodhouse Burial Ground gates	40.00
Tidysite skip services For bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground	20.10
Ash Waste Services Rental and emptying of four bins at Town Burial Ground	304.74
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Grass cutting for October at Springfield Road	56.80
Barry Harrison For hire of skip at Park Lane allotment site	160.00
SMDC Quarterly Lease of land for Moorland Road allotments site	90.00
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – Biddulph Chronicle	150.00

Advert for Dementia Cinema event Blonde Folly Cakes for Dementia Cinema event	45.00
Good News publishing Delivery of 7,500 Biddulph Remembers leaflet RH Traffic Management Road closure signage erection for Artisan Market	225.00 385.32
Market imprest Stall construction and dismantling	180.00
Star Print and Design posters and postcards for work relating to Empowering Women Normalising Breastfeeding Agreed at Town Council meeting 19 June 2018 Minute 12.18	84.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Wreath for Remembrance Sunday Biddulph and District Royal British Legion Two Silhouette, soldier and nurse Andrew Jones- Piper for Remembrance Sunday	25.00 300.00 200.00

Credit card payments

PartyKatz Bunting for the High Street for WWI Commemorations Facebook Boost notonthehighstreet Tankard and engraving for Mr Davies Agreed at Town Council 19 June 2018 minute 18.18 Vistaprint Postcards for schools Neighbourhood plan play provision Shutterstock Clip art monthly charge trsalesuk Heavy duty reusable cable ties for market advertising	255.92 2.97 43.70 106.75 19.00 11.02
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b) Supplementary Accounts for Payment

Expenditure above £500

Salaries HMRC to be paid 1 November 2018 Staffs Pension Fund	5045.10 1836.46 1995.43
R Standell Lengthsman work September – October 2018	1109.00
N and J Tree Services Tree Report for burial grounds	864.00
Hanley Print Services Limited	1182.00

400 Biddulph 2019 calendars

Expenditure below £500

National Memorial Arboretum Biddulph Schools visit 7 November 2018	130.00
So Marketing Ltd Image consideration	195.00
S Haydon 2 x rolls of paper table cloth - for events	28.60
Jane D Mooney t/a Northern Monkey Gobby Chef demonstration for Allotment Committee AGM	200.00
Lex Ward Reimbursement for printing of posters replaces Star print and design invoice on main agenda	84.00
Npower Replacement invoice, due to new contract	14.02
Petty cash	48.95
J Hancock Travel for Artisan Market	23.49

c) To note the completion of the External Audit and recommendations

The report from the external auditor was tabled for Councillors; the recommendations were not onerous and the audit had been successfully concluded. The necessary notices had been displayed. This was received.

It was moved to discuss the next item following the meeting of the GP committee

The meeting was suspended at 7.54 pm

The meeting resumed at 8.50 pm

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair to move:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 10 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm

Signed Date