

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor S Fletcher
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor Hopkins
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor Proudlove
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)
- Councillor N Yates

Councillor Hopkins attended but did not sign the attendance sheet.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman - Compliance and Governance Officer
- Councillor K Jackson

Councillor Smith recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

77. APOLOGIES

- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor Kisicki (Absent)
- Councillor Wood (Absent)
- Councillor K Harper (Absent)

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) Other Interests: Councillors Garvey and Rogers declared an interest in item 87.

79. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024.

Signed and **agreed**.

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2024

Received.

80. TO CONFIRM ONGOING DISCUSSIONS IN RELATION TO CCTV PROVISION

The Chief Officer stated that she had previously circulated an querying whether to contact the Police Crime Commissioner to reiterate the Town Councils concerns; the Working Group had not been quorate and the Chief Officer reported that she was met with a positive response from Councillors.

It was discussed that there had been issues, but they are currently being robustly managed by the District Council. The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner stated that there were insufficient funds but reported on changes he had made, and stated that he believed there to be scope for funding within the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council budget.

The Chief Officer stated that she reported that the anti-social behaviour had been escalating and reiterated funding a trail of the mobile CCTV.

Councillor Garvey expressed his disappointed at the response.

Councillor Salt noted that CCTV is a deterrent and would like to see them be replaced and enhanced. She stated that there is a wider issue in relation to policing which needs to be discussed at a future meeting.

Councillor Lawton expressed his concern with the proposed bench at Station Road, which may experience anti-social behaviour as a result of insufficient CCTV.

Councillor Jackson suggested to wait until after the election of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to arrange a meeting.

Councillor Salt stated that if Staffordshire Moorlands District Council or Police Fire and Crime Commissioner cannot provide the budget, the Town Council should look at budgeting for next year.

It was agreed to support the Chief Officer in continuing the conversation with the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner regarding CCTV provision.

It was proposed by Councillor Proudlove to invite the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, after the election, to a Town and Community Committee meeting; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All agreed.

81. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SMITH: TO CONSIDER ACCESSIBILITY OF TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY (PLEASE VIEW <https://signvideo.co.uk/> AS AN EXAMPLE OF POSSIBLE PROVISION)

Councillor Smith questioned how accessible the Town Council services are to the deaf community. A video was presented detailing a possible provision.

Councillor Yates questioned whether it is a subscription service. The Chief Officer stated that she had requested costings from separate companies.

It was proposed by Councillor Garvey to investigate the costings and bring it back to a future meeting; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. All **agreed**.

82. TO CONFIRM A PROCESS FOR ALLOCATING NAMED BRICKS FOR THE MINING MEMORIAL ON THE TOWN HALL FRONTAGE

Councillor Smith tabled an application form template for the proposed sponsored brick, to be incorporated in the Town Hall Frontage.

The Chief Officer stated that the bricks would be in the form of slips that would be part of the wall, with the wheel on top of it. She questioned whether the bricks would be for just miners, or whether it is for anyone involved in mining is some other way. The Chief Officer confirmed that there would be 362 bricks available, as proposed in the plan.

There was a discussion as to whether the bricks could hold both name and date of birth, whether they had to have a connection with Biddulph and mining, and whether it could be wives of miners.

It was discussed to create a task and finish group to allow further detailed discussion in relation to both the sponsored bricks and the station road bench. It was agreed that a policy would be required for the sponsored bricks.

Councillor Yates proposed to refer this agenda item to the task and finish; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All **agreed**.

Councillor Salt left the meeting for the duration of item 83.

**83. TO CONSIDER BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER PROJECT
RECOMMENDATIONS:**

7. It should create larger posters for public spaces and help those who have sight impairments by rethinking the colour scheme.

8. It should encourage a 'pledge' scheme where participants of groups are encouraged in some way to bring a friend to sessions.

9. Biddulph Town Council works with volunteer groups to alleviate pressure points e.g., out-sourcing catering to free up volunteer time

All three items were discussed and it was agreed to adopt all three items.

**84. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK IN RELATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTATION**

The Chief Officer noted that the consultation had now closed and the feedback will be consolidated into an action plan for the next Environment and Climate Change working group meeting.

It was agreed to continue to report the updates to this Group.

**85. TO APPROVE A PRESS RELEASE IN RELATION TO THE ST JOHN'S ROAD
LANTERNS**

The Chief Officer recited the draft press release. It was discussed and agreed to not add an individual Councillor statement.

The Chief Officer reported that the final design images will be brought to a future meeting for approval, there will also be a proposal from the electrician to fit the LED lighting.

Councillor Yates questioned whether the colour will be changed, i.e. they will not be blue.

Councillor Salt would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the process of bringing back the lanterns.

The press release was approved and it was agreed to publish this within the following days.

86. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE STATION ROAD BENCH AND CURRENT PARKING AREA

The Chief Officer reported that the tiles are currently being made; Kingsfield school has created their tiles, which are fabulous.

Quotes for the groundwork for the circles are to be completed. Development of the car parking area will be added to a future agenda.

There was further discussions around how to engage those young people conducting anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that Pizza in a gazebo could be beneficial.

87. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE TOWN HALL BAR

The Chief Officer reported that the current lease arrangement has been in place for two years. The contract stated that this would be reviewed. It was agreed to put the license out for tender.

Councillor Salt proposed to put the bar out for tender; seconded by Councillor Hopkins. All agreed.

Councillors Rogers and Garvey declared an interest in the this item and did not vote.

88. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION IN RELATION TO THE 'LIBRARY OF THINGS' AND TO AGREE FUTURE ACTIONS

The Chief Officer displayed comparison information about four establishments who currently run a Library of Things. There was a presentation of the images and details were tabled.

Councillor Rogers suggested to use the bus hub as a venue.

Councillor Salt proposed to go ahead with the public consultation and move forward with the documents relating to the project; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **agreed**.

89. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON 2024 EVENTS

The Chief Officer reported that on the first council session took place on 21 May 1974. This year falls on the same day as the Annual Town Meeting.

The Chief Officer noted the upcoming events to be held:

30 April- Art network meeting.

3 May- first Friday Film night, will be showing Oppenheimer. The bar will be available for this event.

11 May- Garden Festival. Ticket sales are good. Books have been ordered ready for signing.

25 May- Future You event is the food/ healthy living event.

1 June- D day event. Ticket prices are £5.

90. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY PREPARATIONS

The Chief Officer reported that the badges that were previously approved have arrived.

The Chief Officer explained that Councillor Jackson had suggested a mural on the wall of the Town Hall; he had forwarded photos of a similar mural at the Barley Mow. It was agreed to complete more research in relation to a mural and bring it back to a future meeting.

The Chief Officer reported that the tea party for past Mayors would take place on the same day as the Annual Town Meeting between 4pm and 6pm.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Signed..... Date.....