

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor K Jackson
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)
- Councillor N Yates

Councillors Smith and Yates were in attendance 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 Margaret Warman - Compliance and Governance Officer
- Councillor J T Jones

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

11. APOLOGIES

- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor C Kisicki- Absent
- Councillor D Proudlove- Absent

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations. None.
- b) Other Interests. None.

13. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 May 2024. Councillor Harper queried the attendance; minutes to be amended. **Approved.**

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on Thursday 23 May 2024. Proposed by Councillor Yates; seconded by Councillor Jackson. **Received**.

14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE STATION ROAD BENCH PROJECT

The Chief Officer advised that where the bench is being positioned has been dug out and fencing is around it; signs have been installed saying that something exciting is coming and to contact the Council if people wish to be involved. Kingsfield First School and Biddulph Youth & Community Zone have completed their tiles. There has been one community session. Further slots would be arranged with young people, and another community session would take place on Monday 24 June. The artist would start the build in the next couple of weeks. Shared Prosperity Fund paperwork has been completed; they are happy the Town Council hasn't gone through a formal tender process as a result of the specialist nature of the work.

Councillor Jackson asked if a decision had been made with regard to the bench's orientation. The Chief Officer confirmed it will face the garden area – with the back to the by-pass. Interpretation boards will form part of the scheme.

The Chief Officer queried whether Councillors thought the bench should be covered up. It was agreed that it would be covered.

Councillor Salt asked if Elaine Rice had been contacted regarding the Brownies making tiles.

The Chief Officer queried what Councillors thought about the installation of CCTV. She advised that she had not received a response from the District Council about their meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner; lights have been smashed in one of the circles and the bench could be at risk.

Councillor Harper asked if the bench was being cemented into place; the Chief Officer confirmed it was.

15. CHRISTMAS

- a) To **consider** a Christmas Lights Switch-on event to be funded from Earmarked Reserves

The Chief Officer distributed a breakdown of costs associated with Christmas last year. She advised that if there was going to be a Christmas Lights Switch-on event this year, a fund would need to be approved to come from Earmarked Reserves.

Councillor Rogers advised he had worked with the contractors for many years in relation to the Christmas Lights; they're now getting past their 'sell by date' and are letting water in. He suggested we replace sections each year – there are six sections.

Councillor Jones queried whether there could be a donation to the Biddulph Moor Lights.

Councillor Eardley asked that we obtain a quote for replacement lights.

Councillor Salt thought replacement Christmas Lights should be factored into council tax and not taken from earmarked reserves in future years, but she was happy to propose £7,000 from earmarked reserves this year for an event.

The Chief Officer will speak to Protech and request their recommendations with regard to replacement Christmas Lights.

Councillor Rogers left the meeting at 7.01pm.

Councillor Jackson asked if there was any funding available via UK Shared Prosperity. The Chief Officer advised there was only one pot available to the Town Council at the current time.

Councillor Garvey seconded the proposal from Councillor Salt; agreed.

b) To **consider** a specification for additional lamps around the Town Hall

This had been discussed as part of the above item; the Chief Officer will also request recommendations about options for the Town Hall frontage.

16. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON 2024 EVENTS

The Chief Officer reflected that this had been a busy year so far. A slide was shown to Councillors detailing events for the next few months:

June - Prayer breakfast on 27 June. Station Road young people session on 28 June.

July - Biddulph Festival – The Town Council has events and is responsible for the launch day parade. Mental Health training starts in July; Tea with The Town Council is on 9 July. The Northern Soul Night on 20 July is sold out. There is a Family Film on 25 July. An Arts Consultation will be arranged and there is a new pre-loved clothes event.

In August, Biddulph Scratch is returning.

September - Classic Vehicle Show on 14 September and the opening of the bench on Station Road. The Mayoral Awards are on 24 September. The opening of the Mining Lanterns would also take place in this month.

October - A Health and Wellbeing Fayre would take place on 19 October and a Business Breakfast would be held.

Councillor Salt wondered if there could be a SEND film event; this would be considered.

Councillor Smith asked whether the Council Chamber could be opened up at Christmas Lights Switch On – to provide a quieter area.

Councillor Garvey reminded members about the yarnbombing going up at the Town Hall later that week to coincide with the 'CATE event'. The Beer and Music Festival is at the end of the month.

The Chief Officer confirmed the Town Council is working with Anthony at the Youth Zone in relation to an over 30's Disco.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

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