

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- Councillor K Jackson
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor N Yates

Councillor Rogers was 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 Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman - Compliance and Governance Officer

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

24. APOLOGIES

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor K Harper - Absent

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

26. MINUTES

To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2024

Proposed by Councillor Yates; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. **Agreed and signed.**

27. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE CIVIC AWARDS EVENT- 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Chief Officer reported that the event had been on the events calendar since the start of the year, and was now nearly here. The public had voted on different categories for the Civic Awards, and groups and individuals would be thanked for their hard work.

The evening would start at 7pm. A large number of volunteer groups had been invited and there would be a buffet available.

Councillors Salt, Rogers, Parkes and Jackson agreed to present an award, if needed.

28. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PROJECTS

The Chief Officer provided an update on three projects that have been ongoing;

- Station road bench has been completed; the artist has been paid and the funds will be claimed back for that project.
- Over 50s research- the Chief Officer is still working with the team to bring forward the aspirations; it is hoped that there will be some funding for the Health and Wellbeing event to take place in October.
- The Town Hall frontage is the final project ongoing at the moment- the Chief Officer is still working with architects to get the finalised plans. The Finance Strategy and Management Committee will have opportunities to scrutinise this further.

The Chief Officer reported that she had been asked whether she can make use of an allocation of funds for an event, to be used by January 2025. The Chief Officer questioned whether to use it for an embellishment of the Christmas Lights event. It was agreed that this was appropriate, and the offer should be accepted.

Councillor Jackson requested a breakdown of each project that has received Shared Prosperity funding.

29. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE SAFE PLACES SCHEME AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL

The Chief Officer reported that a meeting between District Council and County Council representatives took place to discuss the safe places scheme.

The Chief Officer reported that the County have a small budget to support the set-up costs, but not to deliver a safe places scheme. There would be 2-years funding of promotional leaflets and annual membership of the scheme.

This could be a trial within the Moorlands. Biddulph Town Hall would have a sticker which shows that it is a safe place and cards that can be distributed to detail who to contact.

The Chief Officer explained that to go ahead with this, a case study would need to be written as to why Biddulph would be a good trial location for the first safe places scheme.

Councillor Salt proposed that Chief Officer go ahead; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All agreed.

30. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE CULTURAL STRATEGY ADVISORY GROUP AND THE BIDDULPH ARTS FORUM MEETINGS

The Chief Officer has been invited to join the Cultural Strategy Advisory Group who are the group who will influence the emerging Arts Culture and Heritage Strategy for the District area. The Chief Officer hoped that by joining the group she would bring a Biddulph perspective to the strategy.

The Chief Officer reported that Joanne Blunt - Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer from the District Council, came to Biddulph to meet the arts groups within the town. The development of the District Strategy was discussed, and Joanne was keen for Biddulph to have an arts forum and wanted to support that.

The Chief Officer reported that regular meetings will be held in the Chamber, the next one is Monday 30th September 5pm with a drop-in from 2pm until 5pm.

Councillor Rogers proposed that the Chief Officer join the Cultural Strategy Advisory Group.

Councillor Jackson questioned how the funding will be allocated. The Chief Officer explained that the Officer has been employed to assist the Arts groups to apply for funding.

31. TO CONSIDER BECOMING AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AS PART OF THE ONGOING OVER 50S PROJECT: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/uk-network-age-friendly-communities>

The Chief Officer reported that she attended a webinar regarding the framework, which identified eight different pathways that can be considered. The Town Council would then work towards becoming an age friendly community and plan strategically for people in the community.

Councillor Salt questioned whether there was a cost involved with this. The Chief Officer would make enquiries, but this had not been raised so far.

Councillor Kisicki questioned whether there are any examples of other communities who have been successful at this.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer explore this further. Proposed by Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Parkes. All **agreed**.

32. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON 2024 EVENTS

Jodie Hancock highlighted the list of events that are upcoming:

- **Health and Wellbeing Fair, Friday 18th October 10am until 1pm.**

Working with Social Prescribers to bring a range of partners and organisations to offer support to residents. Dementia, lifelines, sight loss, mental health, fitness, PCN, Financial, Housing SEND, Carers, Literacy, Addiction and local groups/organisations.

- **October Half Term Family Film**

This would take place in the Town Hall; date to be confirmed.

- **Repair Café to take place on 12th October**

- **Free Halloween Trail at the County Park**

During the Half term week to support the Hideaway Cafe.

Councillor Rogers gave thanks for the very successful Classic Vehicle Show event on Saturday.

Councillor Salt suggested for next year to approach Kingsfield School to use their car park for extra space for stalls.

Councillor Jackson requested whether an official opening of the Miners lamps could be held.

Councillor Smith questioned whether the drone footage taken by a member of the public could be requested to use as promotion for next year.

Councillor Yates stated that the jazz/ blues event will take place on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November in support of the Mayor's charities.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded.

33. TO CONSIDER TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ARRANGEMENTS

Discussions took place in relation to the Christmas switch-on event.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.

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