

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2024, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.**

PRESENT:

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor K Jackson
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)
- Councillor N Yates

Councillors Proudlove, 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 Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor J Jones – Biddulph Town Councillor

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

46. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor K Harper (Absent)
- Councillor C Kisicki (Absent)
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor J Redfern

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a)** Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

None.

- b)** Other Interests

Councillor Jones declared an interest in item 51.

48. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 October 2024

Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Rogers. All **agreed**.

- b) To **receive** the Notes of the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 23 October 2024

Councillor Jackson noted that during this meeting it was reported throughout the groups that the attendance at sessions has risen.

Proposed by Councillor Jackson; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **agreed**.

- c) To **note** that neither the Health and Wellbeing Working Group (5 November) nor the Environment and Climate Change Working Group (11 November) were quorate.

It was noted.

49. TO AGREE THAT ACTIONS IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THIS COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN AT WORKING GROUPS

The Chief Officer reported that recent meetings of these working groups have not been quorate therefore questioned whether Members should consider the items at Town and Community Committee meetings instead.

Councillor Rogers questioned whether the chairs for the groups would still be needed. It was confirmed that they would not.

It was proposed to add the issues that would have been considered at these working groups under 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Environment and Climate Change' standing agenda items each month by Councillor Yates; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **agreed**.

50. TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TOURISM WORKING GROUP AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

The Chief Officer reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Working Group has recommended that a Tourism Working Group could be created, due to there not being focus of tourism specifically for the town.

Councillor Garvey noted that there is a justification for a working group and felt the Committee should see how it goes. Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Lawton. 6 votes, 2 abstained.

It was **agreed** to put together a working group and promote on social media.

51. TO AGREE THAT REMAINING FUNDS FROM BIDDULPH LIFELINE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO AED DONATE FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW DEFIB EQUIPMENT IN BIDDULPH

Councillor Jones reported that there is £980 in the 'Biddulph Lifeline' pot; he explained that there have been unexpected expenses for AED Donate, who had taken over the management of the defibs. He would like to request that the funds are transferred to AED Donate to cover those costs.

Councillor Jackson questioned whether members of the public made donations. Councillor Jones confirmed that this did not happen, the money was raised through fundraising events and grant applications.

Proposed by Councillor Jackson; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **agreed**.

Councillor Smith gave thanks on behalf of the Town Council and this committee to the work of Biddulph Lifeline.

52. IN ADVANCE OF BUDGET SETTING, TO CONSIDER PRIORITIES FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR 2025/26

Councillor Jackson suggested that the 'library of things' project is a priority, but stated that a finance budget needs to be confirmed first before considering further priorities.

The Chief Officer explained not all of the projects that are attached to this Committee will have a budget implication for the Town Council, as they will attract grant funding to

move forward. This is an opportunity for Councillors to bring forward anything that they would like to consider for the following year, which is the usual process, and the remit for this Committee hasn't changed since 2019.

Councillor Smith noted that the key events should be a priority.

Councillor Jackson stated that tourism is not a priority due to the lack of return on funds. Councillor Garvey disagreed and stated that tourism is a priority due to bringing people into the town.

It was discussed to continue with existing projects, and not add any new projects into the pipeline, except those that can be funded through grants and other external funding.

Councillor Yates noted that sustainability for projects was important.

Proposed by Councillor Lawton; seconded by Councillor Jackson. **Agreed.**

53. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON HERITAGE PROJECTS

The Chief Officer reported that the Overton trough heritage project has now been completed. A photo was displayed.

Councillor Jackson congratulated the team on successfully completing this.

The Chief Officer explained that this is the last Moorlands Partnership Board project to complete.

Councillor Lawton noted that it is an achievement for the Town Council and is reluctant to speed up the weathered look.

The Chief Officer reported that the wording for the interpretation board at Station Road is currently being considered, and this will be brought back to the Committee.

The Chief Officer reported that due to the Town Hall frontage work there are rose bushes that may be relocated to the St Johns Road roundabout and the QR code signs are being erected.

Councillor Jackson questioned whether there is any further expense on the Station at Gillow Heath. The Chief Officer explained that there were previous discussions around installing an interpretation board and bench.

Councillor Jones agreed with reusing the rose bushes, where possible.

54. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON 2024/25 EVENTS

The Chief Officer noted the list of events suggested for next year.

- Feast and Flicks (Part of the Biddulph Works Together)
- Biddulph Scratch (Cinema first Friday of every month – including half term showings)
- Chinese New Year (Funding from UKSP fund – middle of January)
- Mining event to coincide with the Town Hall frontage completion; dedicate the day to the heritage of the town including exhibition, music, ‘voices in the dark’.
- Town Hall Frontage suggestion- Town Centre Car Boot.
- VE day in May
- Prayer Breakfast in June
- Festival Launch day
- Classic Vehicle Show
- Horticulture event – Allotment holders and Women’s Institute (Instead of a Garden Festival)
- Music Festival linked to the Arts Forum
- Spooky Saturday event in October
- Civic Awards and Volunteer event
- Environmental event
- Remembrance/ Armistice
- Christmas Lights
- Business Breakfast

Councillor Rogers stated that he liked the idea of the car boot event and suggested that Sainsburys car park could be a great venue for the event, all year round.

Councillor Jones queried costings of the proposed events.

Councillor Jackson was hopeful for a ribbon cutting event to showcase the mining lanterns, he suggested an evening event for when they are lit up. Councillor Jackson

suggested using the Barley Mow as a venue and stated that the Labour group would cover any costs. This would be investigated, but there was concern about a 12-week lead in for road closures and potential costs of this. It was proposed by Councillor Jackson to work up costings and report back; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All agreed.

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.

55. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR GARVEY: TO CONSIDER THE BIDDULPH FESTIVAL IN 2025

Councillor Rogers declared an interest as a previous Treasurer.

Councillor Garvey reported that this years Biddulph Festival lost £3,000; he questioned whether the Town Council would want to support the continuation of a Biddulph Festival.

Councillor Yates questioned where they lost money. It was discussed that it was the Lengthman's costs associated with the Launch/ Biddulph By the Sea event and ABBA tribute event.

Councillor Rogers reported that sponsorships were sought in the past, and they require more volunteers. It was discussed that the Festival Committee needs to reform and have new ideas. Councillor Rogers stated that he does not think it is a good idea to take this on as a Town Council project.

Councillor Proudlove and Councillor Lawton proposed to provide advice and guidance only.

Councillor Jackson questioned whether the Festival Committee is sustainable and stated that the Biddulph Festival is an important event.

Councillor Eardley left the meeting at 8.11pm.

It was agreed that the Town Council supports the Biddulph Festival, but does not want to finance it.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

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