

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025, 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 C Kisicki (6.36pm)
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)
- Councillor N Yates

Councillors Proudlove, Garvey and Salt were in attendance but did not sign the attendance sheet.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance and Governance Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer

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

62. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor K Harper (Absent)

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

None.

- b) Other Interests

None.

64. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025

Councillor Redfern asked for a minor amendment in relation to his statement; this was agreed.

All **agreed** to accept the minutes.

- b) To **receive** the Notes of the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 15 January 2025

Proposed by Councillor Jackson; seconded by Councillor Garvey. They were **received**.

65. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR YATES: To **consider** the ongoing maintenance of Biddulph village signs.

Councillor Yates explained that he had been approached by a member of the community who would like the wooden Biddulph 'village' signs to be refurbished.

Councillor Kisicki entered the meeting at 6.36pm.

There was consideration about whether a Moorlands Partnership Board grant or Outside Arts application could be made to fund the repair and refurbishment of the village signs.

Councillor Rogers questioned who would complete the work.

Councillor Garvey felt there would be a number of constituted groups who could complete the application process with the artist.

Councillor Lawton questioned whether an assessment would be required.

It was discussed to speak to Councillor Jones and include him in the discussions as he had had some involvement with the Biddulph Moor sign.

Councillor Yates queried whether the Council agreed with the principle of restoring the signs; if so, he would investigate the refurbishment of the village signs. There was agreement that this was an appropriate course of action; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **agreed**.

66. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE 'CHAIN REACTION' PROJECT

The Chief Officer reported about a collaboration between Biddulph Library, Biddulph Youth and Community Zone, Biddulph Police, Staffordshire County Council waste minimisation and Support Staffordshire, to take part in the 'Chain Reaction' project.

The Chief Officer explained that the Mayor will set off on his Cycle ride to London, which would start the year of Cycle events. She explained that there are different events planned throughout the year such as:

Saturday 12th April – Outside Arts event with Bike Ballet, they are currently working up the proposal.

A Fix and Ride project would be re-started, where young people repair a bike and keep it afterwards.

There would be opportunities for young people to have a refurbished bike from the Recycling Centres.

There were discussions regarding a 1-week pledge in the town during the summer month, whereby the community travel to work using a bike.

A discussion took place regarding a bike shelter and railings, and a permanent bike repair point. There would be linkages with the Repair Cafe.

The Chief Officer would continue to work on this project and report back; she hoped this project would work on some infrastructure improvements.

67. TO CONSIDER BEING INVOLVED IN THE KEEP BRITAIN TIDY: GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (21 MARCH-6 APRIL) CAMPAIGN

The Chief Officer reported about the national initiative and whether there was an appetite to be involved. She wondered whether to ask people to identify areas that needed tidying up and whether they would like to volunteer for the project.

Councillor Yates stated that on Mow Lane it is considered too dangerous without a road closure and suggested this as an area. He also wondered about Biddulph Valley Way towards Brown Lees, where tree planting took place, and the plastic has been left on.

Councillor Salt suggested involving young people in a town-wide litter pick.

Councillor Kisicki reported that Biddulph in Bloom took part in a similar project and suggested to involve them.

It was agreed to identify areas using social media, and work up a plan of action.

68. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer reported that proposed tree planting activities are due to take place on the Biddulph Valley Way. The trees are enroute from the Woodland Trust; she suggested promoting this on social media requesting volunteers and whether members of the community have any other trees to donate to this campaign.

It was agreed to arrange a date when the trees have arrived, and we know who wants to be involved.

69. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE IN RELATION TO YOUTH ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE TOWN

The Chief Officer stated that she is currently looking to coordinate opportunities for young people in the town who are more challenging. There are a number of young people banned from areas within the town; the worry is that their behaviour becomes criminal.

The Chief Officer reported that she had a meeting with Biddulph High School and the behaviour management team. It had been discussed to co-ordinate activities to help to work with partners to create positive opportunities for young people, to steer them away from negative behaviour.

Councillor Salt expressed her desire to be involved in the work. She suggested the breeze block wall on Halls Road as a potential project with Outside Arts to involve young people. Councillor Salt also suggested a passport/ stamps scheme which rewards for good deeds and creates positive reinforcement.

Councillor Kisicki questioned whether young people have given an indication of activities they would want to be involved in.

The World Café idea was discussed as a potential means of engagement. There was also consideration of a gaming design workshop with Staffordshire University, as a possibility.

It was hoped that a solution be found that works for everyone and is positive for the whole community.

The Chief Officer will continue to provide updates.

70. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY OF THINGS PROJECT

The Chief Officer reported that she had received some feedback regarding the County Council's climate change grant; this was looking positive.

71. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON AN EMERGING MUSIC FESTIVAL IN THE AUTUMN

The Chief Officer reported that a lady in the town would like to co-ordinate a Biddulph Music Festival again. The team had identified the 4th October as an event date; funding would be needed for room bookings, event costs and to fund the coordinators' activities; grant funding is being sought to support this.

This would be supported by Outside Arts workshops and other music activities over a 2-3 week period.

Councillor Rogers thought this was very positive.

72. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON VE/VJ DAY ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer reported that there is the usual document from the pageant master of activities to complete on the day. A more detailed schedule will be considered closer to VE Day.

The Chief Officer reported that the District Council had offered £1,000 to support these activities; she had submitted an application.

It was discussed that there had not been any guidance regarding VJ Day as yet. There was consideration as to whether to investigate the last Biddulph resident to be killed, and whether to revisit Councillor Salt's project in relation to Biddulph residents, and where they had lived.

The Chief Officer wondered whether there should be a church service, or whether Councillors would like bunting in the street.

There could also be an afternoon tea with a display of photos. If there were any other ideas, these should be sent to the Chief Officer.

73. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON 2025 EVENTS AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER AN EVENTS WORKING GROUP WOULD BE BENEFICIAL

The Chief Officer tabled the list of events for 2025.

It was discussed to create a working group, proposed by Council Garvey; seconded by Councillor Salt. All **agreed**.

The Chief Officer reported that Film Hub are able to fund 'Scratch', which is the monthly film offering. It was hoped that there could be a collaborative Moorlands film project.

Councillor Salt questioned whether a SEND family film is possible. The Chief Officer explained that additional funding is required to support a suitable film session.

Councillor Jackson congratulated the officers.

Councillor Yates noted that raffle prizes are needed for the Civic Ball which takes place on 25th April. Tickets are available in reception.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

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