

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance

Councillor Hawley

32.16 APOLOGIES

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Redfern

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Interests: Councillor Hall declared an interest in Rotary, in relation to the Christmas Lights Switch-On

34 MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 13 September 2016.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes of the Tourism/ Communications Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 13 September 2016

35 DEVELOPMENT OF A TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGY

Councillor Davies introduced the idea of developing a Town Council Strategy to Councillors. The Alsager Strategy document had been included with papers, for reference.

Councillor Davies stated that there are lots of projects that may potentially go on in isolation and that a strategy is needed to coordinate ideas. There are initiatives from Committees, negotiations with outside bodies and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan to consider. A strategy document would help the Town Council to develop partnerships and direct funding appropriately.

Councillor Hall felt that this was a good idea. If the Town Council has an agreed strategy it is easier to take advantage of opportunities when they come along. The Council needs to know the way forward and be clear how taxpayer's money is to be spent.

Councillor Lawson agreed that this was a good idea.

Councillor Hawley felt that a strategy needed to link with the Neighbourhood Plan. This would give the Council more direction.

Councillor Davies felt it was important to have a document that says 'this is how the Council sees the future of the town'.

Councillor Hall proposed that a strategy should be developed. Councillor Hart seconded the motion.

All agreed.

Councillor Davies stated that the Chairs from the main Committees would meet to discuss a way forward with the Chief Officer.

36. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS- REPORT FROM WORKING GROUP AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL LIGHTS

Councillor Davies updated members that the development work was now starting in January on the Town Hall

The working group meeting had been a good meeting with new and refreshing ideas.

Councillor Davies discussed activities with the traders and plans for the north end of town; these were the traders that had showed interest in working with the Council. In the longer term, the Council wished to support all the traders in the town. The working group had discussed adding Christmas trees to the fronts of shops. There will also be stalls at this end of town.

Santa will come from the library, and Veronica will organise a parade with local children. There will be a grotto at the Town Hall. Councillor Hall reminded the Chief Officer that the Council would need a permit to use Council's Connect and for the crib.

Councillor Rogers was concerned that traders had not opened on the night of the Christmas Lights Switch-On previously. The group should ask traders who was planning to open.

Councillor Davies said the Council were looking forward and hoping to improve relationships.

There was discussion in relation to the location of the stalls and the fair.

Councillor Salt said that traders in the south of the town had stated they would have come to a meeting with the Council, but could only do evenings. Councillor Davies said it would be good to get them on board.

Councillor Swift felt it was about creating the right atmosphere on the night and that lighting makes big difference. Perhaps the Council should invest in new lights.

Councillor Davies said that the group had recognised this and recommended that replacement stock was purchased each year. There could be more lights around the Town Hall.

Councillor Hall stated that Alsager looked good where traders had put lights in the windows.

Councillor Swift queried whether traders would contribute.

Councillor Davies said that the Council would continue to work with traders. Councillor Lawson said that there may be some community funding that could be used for this project. The Chief Officer was hoping to have a meeting with Sainsburys to see if they could contribute.

There was discussion about possible initiatives that could increase footfall and involve the traders.

Councillor Hart proposed that an additional £2000 should be spent on new lighting projects within the town. Councillor Whilding seconded this proposal. All agreed.

37. UPDATE ON FINGERPOSTS

The Committee considered the sample that had been provided and the picture of what the posts could look like. There had also been some discussion at the Burial Grounds Sub-Committee.

Councillor Davies updated the group that these would not be embossed, which would enable finer detail. Councillor Davies felt that the Biddulph Town Council crest should be used.

Councillor Hart agreed that this would also increase the Town Council's corporate image.

Councillor McGuinness stated that there should be some mention of Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Davies stated that the signs at either end of town should be updated, and felt that the town looked fabulous.

Councillor Court queried the colour of the signs and Councillor Davies stated that they would be black and gold.

Councillor Davies stated that graphics would be presented at the next meeting for a final decision and further discussion about the location. All agreed.

38. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

The meeting closed at 7.44 pm

Signed Date