

## **MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2017**

### **PRESENT**

The Mayor – Councillor Wood  
The Deputy Mayor Councillor McGuinness  
Councillor Baddeley  
Councillor Court  
Councillor Davies  
Councillor Hall  
Councillor Hart  
Councillor Hawley  
Councillor Jackson  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Rogers  
Councillor Rushton  
Councillor Salt  
Councillor Sheldon  
Councillor Swift  
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance  
Councillor Flunder

The Chair requested permission to move an item forward – this was agreed

### **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Chair to move:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 10 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

### **51 ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SHELDON- CIVIC ARTS PROJECTS**

The meeting was opened to the public.

#### **44.17 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:  
Councillor Lawson

#### **45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon - anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Interests: Minute 49, Councillor Hall was a fellow Rotarian with the owner of Glebe Farm.

#### **46. MINUTES**

- a. The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 were signed
- b. The Notes of the Pop Up Shop meeting on 6 September 2017 were received, a verbal update had been given previously.
- c. The Notes of the Christmas Lights Meeting on 11 September 2017 were received

Councillor Davies proposed that Standing Orders be suspended, this was agreed and Councillor Flunder was invited to address the meeting.

Councillor Flunder reported that he had asked David Greatbatch at Staffordshire County Council to find out if Biddulph Town Council could ask an external contractor to quote for the work on making South View one-way. He was awaiting a response.

Councillor Salt reported that she was in contact with residents of South View and had received an email from Mr Greatbatch informing her that this would be allowed.

Councillor Davies noted that the Christmas Lights Committee had been discussing the possibility of projecting images on to the Town Hall, Councillor Flunder was in the business of lighting. Councillor Flunder would look at dates and see if he could help.

Councillor Jackson queried if South View was in Councillor Lawson's division. Information about South View should be given by Councillor Lawson and not added to the meeting with no prior warning.

Councillor Rogers asked why the work had previously been quoted as a six figure digit; it only required 'a couple of signs and a tin of paint'.

Councillor Wood noted that a projector to shine onto the Town Hall could be purchased for about £75; if Councillor Flunder was not available, it would not be a great expense to purchase a projector and we would have it forever. Councillor Davies appreciated the information.

Councillor Salt searched for her email from Mr Greatbatch. Councillor Salt located the message and read pertinent extracts, for information.

Councillor Flunder had asked for information as to whether the work could be completed at South View without a report and without involving Amey.

Councillor Jackson noted that this should have been an agenda item and not sprung on us.

#### **47. ELAINE RICE - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY UPDATE**

Mrs Rice was invited to speak and gave an update. The route would be the same, south along the High Street, up Well Street, north along John Street to the memorial. Mrs Rice would liaise with Biddulph Rotary about barriers to segregate wreath layers and allocation of space for veterans at the front. Clockworks had closed, so a location for the PA system would be sought. Councillor Rogers would liaise with the Chief Officer. Councillor Rogers was liaising with Mr Pickles at the Methodist Church to source a larger PA system.

Mrs Rice noted that Biddulph Town Council had requested large poppies to attach to the railings outside the Town Hall and displayed a sample. If carefully attached, they could be used in 2018. Councillor Rushton wondered if High Street shops might display these too.

Mrs Rice reported that a few member of the Biddulph branch for the Royal British Legion attended the service at Stoke Minster to commemorate the centenary of the Victoria Cross being awarded to two local men, Messrs Rhodes and Egerton. The government had agreed that all First World War recipients of the Victoria Cross would be commemorated with a plaque on a raised plinth in their town of origin.

A service would be held at Packmoor on 27 November; a hundred years since local born Mr Rhodes had been killed in action. Following this, a reception would be held at the Victoria Centre between 3 and 4 pm on that day. Councillor Salt asked if relatives of Mr Rhodes would be attending and wondered if this Council should write a letter of gratitude and present a small gift. Councillor Court noted that one family member would be attending the reception. The Mayor, Councillor Davies, Councillor Salt and the Chief Officer would source a suitable gift.

Councillor Rogers asked if Remembrance Sunday would be on the Sunday following the 11<sup>th</sup> rather than the Sunday before. It would be held on Sunday 12 November.

Councillor Jackson felt that it was not tasteful that so many businesses laid wreaths and wondered if there was a better way to pull it all together. Mrs Rice responded that the order would be amended slightly. Certain individuals would lay wreaths and then others would follow in groups, she added that purchasing a wreath supported the Poppy Appeal. Councillor Davies added that some felt it was advertising a business rather than an act of remembrance, he suggested that 'any businesses' rather than individual names be called out.

Councillor Rogers noted that a friend of his had been unsure when to lay his wreath as he didn't feel he was old enough to be a 'veteran'. Mrs Rice noted that

anyone of any age who had served in the forces was a veteran. Councillor Court noted that he was a veteran, but not old.

Councillor Davies thanked Mrs Rice for attending the meeting.

Standing Orders were resumed.

#### **48. ARTISAN MARKET - FINANCIAL UPDATE AND REVIEW**

The Chief Officer gave an initial analysis of the 2017 market season, which had restarted in April. Jodie Hancock, the Events and Partnerships Officer had been in post since March and increased the number of traders and diversity of products.

The garage rent had increased and the majority of the new stalls were pitch only. This meant there was less maintenance, but less income; thought should be given to an increase on the rental for a pitch in 2018/19.

Councillor Davies felt that this should be left in the hands of the Chief Officer to make recommendations for a future meeting.

Councillor Rogers suggested that the redundant toilet block on the Wharf Road car park could be purchased; it had massive potential for storage. Councillor Davies responded that it would be viable for storing gazebos, but not the tractor and two trailers that were needed for the market stalls. He felt that we paid a ridiculous amount of rent for the garage.

#### **49. REVIEW OF 'FRESH FOOD FRIDAY'**

The Chief Officer gave a brief introduction. The Town Council aimed to increase footfall on the High Street and provide opportunities to purchase fresh food. On a trial basis, Glebe Farm, the Cheese Counter, Cheshire Pie and Select Fish (which had relocated from the south High Street) were trading every Friday in the Loading Bay and on the frontage. Positive feedback had been received, in person and on social media; there had been a great write up in the Biddulph Chronicle. It was obvious to Town Council staff that footfall had increased on the High Street as a result of the venture. The Loading Bay closure was in force until the end of this year.

Councillor Court thought it was a great idea and had brought a feel good factor to the town.

Councillor Jones thought that the opportunity to spend money with local traders was an asset to the High Street.

Councillor Davies noted that traders did not pay for the pitch as it was on a trial basis. The Chief Officer noted that they took the risk helping us to trial this as they were selling fresh produce.

All agreed that the Loading Bay should be closed beyond the New Year and that this was initially very successful.

**50. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

- a) Councillor Davies reported that the pop-up shop project, or as he preferred ‘Embryo Business’ idea, would be followed up in the New Year.
- b) Fingerposts – we are still waiting for permission from the County Council.
- c) Councils Connect TV monitor- The aim had been to have a screen in reception that could advertise local events. The District Council equipment would not be suitable and Councillor Davies suggested that this Council purchases a smart TV from a local store, which would accommodate a data stick. Councillor Davies would seek suitable quotes. All agreed.

**Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Chair to move:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 10 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**51. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SHELDON- CIVIC ARTS PROJECTS**

Discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

**52. APPROVAL OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EXPENDITURE**

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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