

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hart
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Nicosia

82.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
The Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- ii. Other Interests: None.

84. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 January 2018 were signed.
- b) The Minutes of the Cenotaph and Centenary Working Group meeting held on 22 January 2018 were received.
- c) The Minutes of the Young People in the Town Centre Working Group held on 25 January 2018 were received.

85. STATION ROAD UPDATE

Councillor Rogers reported that the plans had been submitted with the wrong applicant named; this was a clerical error. This was a shame as Councillor Davies was now unable to speak in support of the application.

The Chief Officer noted that a revised front sheet had been submitted in her name on behalf of the Town Council.

86. TO RECEIVE NORTH HIGH STREET SURVEY RESULTS- NOTE ATTACHED FROM CLLR NICOSIA

The report had been circulated; Councillor Nicosia offered to answer any questions.

Councillor Salt suggested that the report could be included in the remit of the Highways Contractor at Minute 92.

Councillor Hart reminded members about the history of the area. There was to be a loading bay where the build out was sited adjacent to the post office; this was then relocated to the other side of the street adjacent to the flower shop. One trader had objected very vocally; he was no longer trading in the town. Traders deserved what should have been there in the first place. As shops had filled up it had become obvious that it was required.

The Chief Officer provided a summary of the current situation. Councillor Nicosia had been tasked by this Committee to complete liaison with the traders. This had been requested because Staffordshire County Council Highways had asked for the views of the traders. The Chief Officer suggested that a letter and Councillor Nicosia's report should be sent to Highways noting that the majority of the traders were in support of the loading bay, and requesting that action is now taken.

Councillor Nicosia felt that the comments from each trader highlighted their frustrations. The majority had been contacted and overwhelmingly they would like loading bay; for them it was an everyday issue. This Council should support them. One trader had been fined for parking on the double yellow lines, even though they had been unloading their vehicle.

Councillor Hawley noted that one trader had objected to a loading bay outside his shop, but agreed in principle to installing one on the street.

Councillor Rogers felt that this report highlighted the problems and thanked Councillor Nicosia for her work on this. Councillor Hart agreed that Councillor Nicosia had produced a very good piece of work, adding that it was not easy to carry out these surveys.

It was proposed by Councillor Nicosia and seconded by Councillor Hart that the Chief Officer should write to Staffordshire County Council Highways with this information and ask them to prioritise the installation of a loading bay. All agreed.

87. BIDDULPH FILM CLUB- GIFT OF PROJECTION EQUIPMENT

Councillor Rogers reported that the Biddulph Film Club was no longer running. It owned a lot of equipment, which was currently stored around the Town Hall. Councillor Rogers proposed that this Council accepts the offer of the equipment free of charge. It could be used or loaned to organisations around the town. Mr Barber of the Film Club had volunteered to help with any events that the Council wished to hold.

It was proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Whilding to accept the gift of the equipment.

Councillor Hawley queried the ongoing maintenance costs. The Chief Officer responded that none of the equipment was older than 3 years and had been well looked after. It would be added to our insurance and the Asset Register.

Councillor Hawley asked if the Film Club could ask for it back. Councillor Rogers did not think this was likely.

Councillor Baddeley felt that we should accept this generous free gift.

The Chief Officer noted that if films were to be shown, a licence fee may be incurred; she would investigate this further. However, a film shown as part of a dementia event might be licence-free depending on the age of the film.

Councillor Salt felt that the Council Chamber was far too bright to show a good quality film. Black-out blinds could be investigated, if necessary.

All were in favour of this Council accepting the gift of the film equipment from the Film Club.

88. CONSIDERATION OF CELEBRATING 'STAFFORDSHIRE DAY'

Councillor Rogers invited the Events and Partnerships Officer to speak. Staffordshire Day now ran for a whole week at the beginning of May. The Chief Officer and Events and Partnerships Officer had considered whether it would be appropriate to hold an event in Biddulph on Artisan Market Friday, 4 May 2018.

The Chief Officer reported that there was to be more focus for the coming year across the county. It was hoped to hold the event in the Hall downstairs, displays with information on key heritage, and relevant speakers, with local food. Councillor Rogers felt Officers should begin to work on this event. Councillor Hart thought this should be encouraged. 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.”

89. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Councillor Rogers thanked members for their support; a lot of decisions had been made that evening.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed Date