

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2018

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor McGuinness
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Davies
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Nicosia

1.18 ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND DEPUTY

The Chief Officer called for nominations for Chair of the Civic Committee. Councillor Hall proposed Councillor Davies for the Chair; seconded by Councillor Rogers, there were no other nominations and Councillor Davies was elected.

Councillor Davies called for nominations for Deputy Chair, Councillor Hall proposed Councillor Rogers, this was seconded by Councillor Jones, there were no other nominations and Councillor Rogers was elected as Deputy.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and reasons accepted from

Councillor Court
Councillor Hart
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Wood

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations
- ii. Other Interests

4. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 April 2018 were signed.
- b) The Minutes of the Cenotaph and Centenary Working Group meetings held on Monday 16 April 2018 and Monday 14 May 2018 were received.
Councillor Jones gave a brief summary; between 1-11 November 2018 each day a different event would be held- a variety of social, military and youth events. Biddulph is making a real effort and 'pushing the boat out'.

**5. STATION ROAD UPDATE
TO CONSIDER TABLED OPTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED
SCULPTURE AND INFORMATION BOARD**

Photographs of different types of sculpture were circulated.

Councillor Davies referred to the original plan which mentioned an obelisk; was this still what Members wanted to see as this now needed to be sourced and costed. 140 names would be included with provision for a short history of local mines. The costs would be the shape of the structure and the number of letter to be engraved.

Councillor Jones suggested a 'headsticks' design and wondered if a couple of old mining tubs could be included.

Councillor Hall asked if trucks might be donated by the Coal Board.

Councillor Jones thought they could be sited somewhere in the garden.

Councillor McGuinness wondered if the mining wheel at the front of the Town Hall could be moved to sit at the rear of the obelisk, to give focus.

Councillor Davies felt that both sides of the obelisk might be needed to incorporate the inscriptions; like the tubs it would set the atmosphere, but there was a price constraint. If there were remaining funds at the end of the project this could be considered.

Councillor Jackson noted that costings were needed; he would not like to see the wheel moved as it was a focal point in the town. We required costings for an obelisk in the style of the 'headsticks' shape put forward by Councillor Jones.

All agreed that this option should now be investigated.

Councillor Davies wished to make Councillors aware that there were problems negotiating a licence/covenant with Sainsbury's, to take out the road; this was their land. The Chief Officer had previously had discussions with Sainsbury's and the appropriate contact had been identified, but they were no longer responding. Councillor Davies had sent another letter. Mr Larner at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) would also make contact. Without an agreement there was concern that the S.106 agreement would be compromised, the expiry date was this time next year.

Councillor Davies asked that members agree to a way forward at the next meeting. There could be two phases, with one phase around the road, incorporating four of the circles, and the second phase when the road had been removed.

Councillor Rogers wondered where people would park to use the nice area; there was a need for parking.

Councillor Jones noted that the design had been approved and it would have an impact on costs if it was completed in two phases; he suggested that this Council turns the screw on Sainsbury's.

Councillor Davies agreed that there would be a cost implication of doing the work in two parts.

Councillor Jackson wondered whether the right person existed at Sainsbury's. The money needed to be committed before the deadline.

Councillor Davies suggested taking legal advice.

Councillor Hall wondered where the money would come from for the second part. Sainsbury's was dependent on the people of Biddulph and it was thwarting the enhancement of Biddulph.

Councillor Nicosia asked if we had 'gone to the top'. Councillor Davies replied that he had written to the Chief Executive Officer.

Councillor Nicosia wondered what the people of Biddulph would think about the situation. Sainsbury's was proud of its commitment to the community; she wondered what the legal implication would be if this Council just went ahead.

Councillor Jones added that Sainsbury's was not being deliberately obstructive.

Councillor Lawson asked if Sainsbury's had seen the plans. The Chief Officer replied that a representative had accepted the plans and the proposal in principle, but no written confirmation had been received.

Councillor Davies proposed that tenders are sought for the plan as it stands forthwith. This was agreed.

6. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - RAISED AT APRIL CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Councillor Jones thought that the Mayoral photographs looked much better now that they had been spaced further apart

Councillor Rogers wondered if there were plans for a motorised screen on the empty wall. The Chief Officer noted that it was currently fit for purpose.

A discussion took place about the relocation of a variety of items, no decisions were made.

Councillor Baddeley suggested sanding the tables; Councillor Hall noted that the tops were veneer. The Chief Officer would seek quotations.

7. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP MEETING, HELD THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors that meetings had been held for the past twelve months; those present included representatives from Staffordshire Police, Biddulph Youth and Community Zone (BYCZ), Town Council, Sainsbury's and the schools; discussions have taken place about young people in the town centre and the impact of a range of interventions, including the Public Space Protection Order; these methods seem to be having a positive effect.

New initiatives include five a side football; events as part of the Festival, interschool disco at BYCZ, plans for a disco at the Town Hall, etc.

Updates were given on levels of anti-social behaviour at this meeting; there had been a 12% reduction in Biddulph, equating to 53 less incidents. Biddulph Police had attributed this success to the joined up approach and range of options available.

Sainsbury's had reported a lull in anti-social behaviour from the 'core group' of individuals and strong partnerships had been formed. The next meeting would be held at the beginning of October 2018.

Councillor Hall welcomed the news and hoped that it would continue.

Councillor Jackson felt there were a lot of 'thank yous' in relation to this work. He added thanks to Antony Capostagno at BYCZ, and a pat on the back for the Town Council being the catalyst for the groups to meet.

The Chief Officer noted that the group of young people causing problems had now moved on, but the next group had already been identified.

Councillor Davies proposed that a letter of thanks and encouragement is sent to all concerned.

Councillor Nicosia agreed that the work had been good, however it focussed on the town centre. Newpool Meadows had suffered; motor bikes had been driven onto it and acts of vandalism carried out. Mrs Faulkner, Chair of the action group had reported this to the police, but did not have a response for two weeks. The Biddulph in Bloom group hoped to take the judges there in July.

The Chief Officer responded that this had been discussed at the meeting; the problem was that there were too many exits from the site for people to disperse, but the Police were certainly aware of the issues.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Davies had no further items to report.

Councillor Rogers wondered whether the Town Council should buy a gift for Dave Davies who was retiring from the Fire Service; Councillor Jones noted that this would be discussed at Town Council.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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.”

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed Date