

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance:
Councillor Court
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley

69.15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Hart
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Rushton

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Disclosable Interests.

71 PRESENTATION FROM KAREN LLOYD (WREKIN HOUSING TRUST) – DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN BIDDULPH

Apologies had been received on the morning of the meeting. It was agreed to ask Wrekin Housing Trust to attend the next meeting.

72 MINUTES

- a It was moved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 13 December 2016.
- b It was moved to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Burial Grounds Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 January 2017.

73. VERBAL UPDATE FROM BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK SITE VISIT ON 14 JANUARY 2017

The site visit was postponed as snow had been forecast by the Met Office. The visit would now take place on Saturday 21 January 2017, meeting at 10.00 a at the Visitor Centre. The next meeting would take place on Monday 23 January 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber. Further updates would be given at a later date.

74. BUS STOP BY SAINSBURY'S - CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL LIGHTING

Councillor Jackson had requested discussion on this item at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 13 December 2016.

Following the request from Cllr McGuinness that ownership of the bus shelter by Sainsbury's should be considered, confirmation has been received that Staffordshire County Council are responsible for this. The County do not currently consider lighting in shelters, but may be willing to permit the Town Council to do this.

The Chief Officer had spoken to David Greatbatch at Staffordshire County Council; he might be willing to consider solar lighting.

Councillor Jones proposed that more information is sought and the matter progressed, it was proposed to first write to the County Council for formal approval that we could install solar lights on their asset before progressing further.

Councillor Hawley queried how often the shelter was used as he had noted people waiting in Sainsbury's foyer.

Councillor Rogers said that solar panels may not work; they would not hold enough charge or be efficient at this time of year.

It was agreed to seek more information and discuss this at a later meeting

75. TO RECEIVE THE FORMAL TERMINATION OF THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A copy of this document had been sent to Councillors by email. Biddulph Town Council would need to decide how to progress this in the future.

Councillor Wood thought it should be referred back to the Finance Committee, so Council did not lose out. Councillor Hall noted that the Finance Committee had allocated £5000 for Lengthsman work; the same as 2016/17.

Councillor Redfern noted that the County Council had mentioned concerns about insurance, Councillor Jones agreed that there were certain points which needed clarification. Town Council would need County Council permission to work on oits land, but would need to cover the insurance itself.

The Chief Officer would develop a scheme and present this for consideration at a future meeting.

Councillor Redfern felt this Council should decide on and set parameters.

Councillor Jackson suggested that records should be checked to see where historically, the Lengthsman had operated and consider if this should continue. Consideration should be given to works carried out by County Council workers, if any. Councillor Jackson had attended a meeting of Brown Edge Parish Council where the decision had been made to discontinue the Lengthsman scheme, with the expectation that County could carry out the necessary work. Councillor Jackson

thought that the Lengthsman Scheme worked well, as work could be carried out quickly.

76. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Gillow Heath Resident's Association- new venue

Cllr Rogers has advised that meetings will now be held at the Staffordshire Knot on a Tuesday evening. The date of the next meeting will be confirmed shortly.

Councillor Rogers confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 31 January at 7.00 pm in the Staffordshire Knot

2 Proposed Parking Restrictions- Congleton Road

Following requests from individual residents regarding an issue with parking vehicles on Congleton Road and its junction with Halls Rad, Mow Lane and Smithy Lane, the request was placed onto the parking request log. It is currently being investigated.

The proposal is that double yellow lines are placed onto the entrances of each junction and along Congleton Road as far as the garage. The map is available to view, if more information is needed.

County Highway Liaison states: This proposal will help to facilitate the passage of vehicles and pedestrians along the road, by preventing obstruction of the footway and the narrowing of the road caused by parking on both sides of the carriageway. This will also provide better visibility of the zebra crossing.

The Town Council have asked to provide comments by **23 January 2017**.

3 Officer training

The office will be closed on Wednesday 1 February for Officer training.

4 'Development Control: How to respond to Planning Applications- SPCA Training

Delivered previously under the title "Planning: The Basics" – this course looks at "planning issues" from the perspective of parish councils engaging in the 'development control' process – i.e. in commenting upon, or in perhaps seeking to mitigate the effects of, what other parties are actually 'planning'.

The two hour course examines how the planning system in the UK has evolved over time and how parish councils can best defend and serve the public interest, in light of the National Planning Policy Framework and related legislation. In so doing, the course does not address 'planning' in the strategic, pro-active sense, but rather shows how parish councils can take action to safeguard the interests of their communities and ensure that regeneration and development is appropriate. Topics include material considerations, developer contributions, enforcement, permitted development rights, class use orders.

Dates of Course: Wednesday 8 February 2017 and repeated Wednesday 15 February 2017

Venue: Rudyard Suite, Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2LP

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Cost: £20.00 for the first delegate, £15.00 for the second and £10.00 for subsequent delegates from the same council. Prices are doubled for unaffiliated members.

5 Severn Trent- Water Sampling Stations

Severn Trent Water Limited is required to conduct water quality and flow monitoring studies under the Water Framework Directive. One of these areas is the 'butterfly garden' on Tunstall Road, on the border of Brindley Ford. This is owned by the Town Council. The box will be fitted for 12-18 months near the outfall. This work will commence in February 2017.

6 Reminder about 'Call 105'

Western Power have reminded stakeholders that the '105' number provides information about power cuts. They have provided 'top tips' in case of power cuts, which is available at: www.westernpower.co.uk

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

Signed Date