

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

70.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Mayor Councillor Wood
Councillor Court
Councillor Harper
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: None.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: None.

72. MINUTES

It was moved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 12 December 2017.

73. STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY CONSULTATION (DOCUMENTS ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer noted that a copy of the consultation had been received and had been sent to Councillors by email. The closing date for responses is 1 April 2018. At present, it is not proposed that Biddulph Library will become a Community Managed Library. However, it is not clear what impact the automated system and self-service hours will have on the need for volunteers or on reducing the number of staff. The mobile library service will be retained for Biddulph Moor; the Rose and Crown is the location where residents can use this service. There will be a consultation session at the Biddulph Library on 6 February 2018, 3-6pm.

Councillor Hart suggested that enquiries should be made about the potential staffing and volunteers requirements with this automated technology. This would help to guide members on the consultation.

Councillor Jackson felt that Biddulph had not escaped the cuts and wondered about the cost of another consultation. This was another bite at local services; 'death by a thousand cuts'. Councillor Jackson felt that Biddulph would be on the hit list sooner or later. He encouraged Councillors to take part in the consultation. Councillor Jackson noted that the County Council was asking for more Council Tax, but people in Biddulph were paying more and getting less; they should get onto the Government to fund social care properly.

Councillor Rogers encouraged Councillors to go and support the roadshow; the library provision should not be lost at any cost.

Councillor Nicosia noted that Biddulph Library is a vital community hub, hosting 'knit and natter' and a range of children's activities. We should encourage more groups to use the facility.

Councillor Hart reiterated that he had previously suggested that a small group goes to look at Werrington and Blythe Bridge Libraries. He was happy to arrange a visit.

Councillor Jones supported what Councillor Jackson had said, and noted that it was a good idea to have a 'Plan B' for when Biddulph Library inevitably becomes a community managed facility; we should look at other services.

Councillor Hawley noted that it was positive that the mobile service would be retained by Biddulph Moor, particularly as there were now no bus services into Biddulph.

74. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Local Councillor Training Course – Tuesday 6 February 2018

A Local Councillor Training Course has been arranged for Tuesday 6 February 2018. The topics being discussed are:

- Profile of an Active Council
- Profile of a Local Councillor
- A Good Chairman
- The Role of the Clerk
- The Council as Employer
- The Law and Local Councils
- Administrative Duties
- Section 137
- Council Budgets and Precepts
- VAT
- Audit Arrangements and Fees
- Transparency Code
- What's on the Agenda
- The Localism Act 2011
- Planning
- The Nolan Principles

Date: Tuesday 6 February 2018

Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

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

Cost: £20.00 for the first delegate, £15.00 for the second and £10.00 for subsequent delegates from the same affiliated council. The prices are doubled for unaffiliated councils.

Please contact the Chief Officer if you would like to attend.

Councillor Rogers would volunteer to take members, if they would like to attend.

2. New Staffordshire Youth Commission members to tackle key issues

Knife crime and mental health will be top of the agenda in Leek, Cheadle and Biddulph as the Staffordshire Youth Commission welcomes 25 new members for 2018 between the ages of 14-25.

And now, with the second year in full swing, the new recruits will join 10 existing members with a view to making a difference to youth issues, being involved in policing and having a say about how crime is tackled.

The members come from a hugely diverse group of organisations across Staffordshire, including the Prince's Trust, YMCA, Youth Offending Team, Children in Care, schools, colleges and universities.

Following an inaugural meeting last month, attended by Mr Ellis, the group are due to meet again in early January to discuss key priority topics for 2018 – with knife crime and mental health to be the first items on the agenda.

The full list of topics for this year include:

- Knife crime
- Mental Health
- CSE and Abusive relationships
- Hate Crime and Exclusion
- Community Breakdown

3. Ambulance Hub meeting

Please advise the Chief Officer asap if you are able to attend a visit to the Ambulance Hub in Stoke. Proposed dates are:

Thursday 25 January- 10am

Thursday 25 January- 2pm

Friday 26 January- 2pm

Councillor Hart noted that it was exceptionally important that we attended this meeting. There was discussion about availability; the preferred time was Friday 26 January at 2.30pm. The Chief Officer would confirm this by email.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Signed Date