

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MAY 2016

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor announced the recent death of former Mayor of this town, Mr Stanley Meredith and invited everyone to join in a minutes silence in his memory.

Councillor Jackson spoke about Mr Meredith; he had been a Councillor for 12 Years and a governor of Biddulph High School for over 20 years, a tremendous servant to the town, Stan would be sorely missed. Councillor Jackson proposed that a condolence card be sent to Mrs Eleanor Meredith. It was noted that a letter and some flowers had already been prepared.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Wood
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

1.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Mr Antony Capostagno and Ms Melanie Hilton were invited to address the meeting to provide an update on the Biddulph Youth and Community Zone (BYCZ). The centre had been open for nearly a year. Football had increased 100% as the centre had become a meeting place for all ages in the community. BYCZ was on target to meet all outcomes with many ongoing partnerships and was run mainly by volunteers, only Ant – Centre Manager and the admin staff being paid employees, mostly funded from the Lottery award, though other funding sources had also been sought. The Centre was doing well and had received positive feedback from the community.

The Youth Club ran on Monday and Friday evenings with positive activities for up to 100 young people in the winter months, but only 50-60 during the summer, however it only used to be 10-15 when run by the County Council. The young people come from all over the Biddulph community.

Other activities are:

- A classic film morning aimed at older people, held on Mondays, 25 plus attend free of charge
- Art and craft family sessions
- Intergenerational fitness activities
- Sunday evening family skating

- A variety of adult education projects will begin in the summer in conjunction with Leek and Buxton College

Councillor Redfern asked how long the lottery funding would be for - 5 years so 4 years were left. Ant explained that the Lottery required financial targets to be met which increased year on year. BYCZ was well on track to increase revenue. He was looking to generate income so that BYCZ would be self-sustaining.

Councillor Rogers asked how someone could hire the hall - Contact the centre by phone or email, or call in, the information and booking rates were on the webpage. Ant noted that bookings had tripled since BYCZ had taken over.

- b) PCSO Sherratt had been unable to attend but had sent an update:
- 1 Criminal damage in Millennium Garden, camera in place to monitor area.
 - 2 Vehicle crime in Lawton Street, a forensic hit came back and one person had been charged.
 - 3 Washington Close Queen's 90th birthday celebration event was a great success thanks to Mayor and Town Crier for attending £118 was raised, had written to HM Queen and received a response.
 - 4 Force Open Day Sunday 5 June 2016 at headquarters, leaflets available.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations.
Councillor Hart declared an interest in any matters concerning the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan to do with site specifics
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Sheldon

Biddulph Town Crier

4. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to receive and sign the Minutes of the Statutory AGM held on 10 May 2016.
- b It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19 April 2016. Councillor Lovatt requested to see the invoices for the Biddulph Valley Park work.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 April 2016. The numbering from 118 was amended

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a Public meeting to be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 25 May 2016.
- b The Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be attending a Legends game at Vale Park as part of Dementia Awareness week. The Mayor offered to obtain information about the Dementia friend programme on behalf of the council. This was agreed.
- c A Deed of Easement for underground services was sealed.

6. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

- The Chief Officer reported on a very interesting afternoon. Three schools had been represented. The Advisors had been asked about the structure of the meetings and they were happy and felt that they had seen action with some of the issues they had raised. The group considered having themed sessions e.g. visits to the burial ground or allotments, with fresh pairs of eyes.
- The Advisors liked the Christmas Lights, maybe would like additional fun fair rides, a pet show, and a celebrity to turn on the lights, would consider options and bring back to the next meeting.
- The Roaches School would be holding an event on 24 May from 4.00 pm.
- Lots of discussion in the town about the Local Plan.
- Officers would take allotments information into the next meeting; they were the allotment holders of the future.

7. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following account was paid prior to the meeting:

V Brown Market Day Organiser – April market	50.00
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b) The following accounts were received for payment:

V Brown - Events Director	787.92
V Brown – Market Day Organiser – May market	50.00
Market float – cash for stall construction	160.00
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – market advertisements	70.56
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	60.00
Severn Trent Water – Allotment Moorland Road	14.95
Npower- Christmas Lights	25.54
E-on – supply and installation of street lights	69,982.22
E Thompson – internal audit	135.00
K Thacker - travel and parking for audit deliver and collect	36.60
Kent County Council	1128.37
Community Council of Staffordshire – subscription	25.00
D Allcock - Lengthsman work - 345.00	
- burial ground inc empty skip - 165.00	510.00
Staffs Pension Fund	570.77
Salaries	3809.91
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 6 June 2016	1234.20
Npower – Christmas unmetred supply	143.85
Npower – BT kiosk April – June 2015	43.44
Npower – BT kiosk July 2015 – March 2016	233.62
Petty cash	43.82
Mayor’s Allowance	2535.00
Deputy Mayor’s Allowance	1020.00
Town Crier’s Honorarium	610.00

Councillor Harper asked about the photocopier contract, it ran for three more years.

Councillor Redfern noted that there had not been enough plans at a recent SMDC consultation event; the Chief Officer had copied several more and some feedback sheets. The bill above did not relate to this but did include all the copying for the workshops held during the winter/spring. An estimate of £7 for the consultation event was given. It was moved to defer further discussion on this item to the General Purposes meeting. This was agreed.

Councillor Davies asked that the figures are checked before the street lights payment is processed, Councillor Rogers concurred.

8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

Signed Date.....

8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Councillor Davies reported that he and Councillor Jackson had attended a trustee meeting of Biddulph East Community Association (BECA); he explained that BECA was the charity name and Biddulph Resource and Information Centre BRIC was the trading name. The hoped-for Lottery grant had not been approved.

Councillor Davies explained that the meal service was making a profit and was in further demand. The Café broke even but could be developed, however the Resource part did not make money, but he felt it was a valuable asset to the community. An action plan was being developed with help from Support Staffordshire and a Business Advisor – Lesley Savage - had been appointed.

The group was in the process of reorganisation and restructure of staff, there was a plan to increase the amount of meals provided and to make the Café more productive. Staff paid hours would be reduced by up to 55 hours a week.

Our grant of £10,000 if approved, would be used as follows; one third to enable the group to continue on the current form more or less, and the remainder to support the reorganised service and stretch out the funding for up to 12 months, in the meantime further applications for grants would be made with the aim of making the centre self-sustaining.

Councillor Davies felt that the centre was excellent value to the community, with superb staff who put in many more hours than they were paid, with a good number of volunteers. The Centre employed those who could not get a job elsewhere. Councillor Davies asked that this Council support BECA/BRIC. Councillor Hall noted that all the questions had been cleared up; he moved that the £10,000 be paid. Councillor Harper seconded the proposal adding that this was an area of the community which needed our help. Councillor Rushton added that it was the community not just BECA/BRIC which needed our help.

The proposal was agreed with one abstention, Councillor Redfern, as a user of services at BRIC.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed Date.....