

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 AUGUST 2017

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor; the Mayor invited Fr Julian Green to lead a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor
Councillor Wood
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift

28.17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting to adjourn for up to 20 minutes (Standing Order 1d-f) to allow for public participation. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Mayor.

Members of the public wishing to raise issues which are not on the Agenda should notify the Chief Officer five working days before the meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.

Alan Holdsworth - Local bus subsidy

Mr Holdsworth sent apologies as, in his view, it was inevitable that the 93 service would be withdrawn so there was no point coming to speak.

Councillor Hart noted that there would be an update on transport at the General Purposes Committee meeting that evening.

The residents from South View - Parking issues and concerns about dangerous junction

Councillor Salt reported that none of the residents were in attendance; she explained the issues on their behalf, noting that she was not a Councillor for that Ward but had met with some of the residents along with Councillor Lawson. Councillor Wood had been invited but had been unable to attend.

Councillor Salt noted that some residents had previously parked at Saxon Tyres, but the proprietor now needed the land for his staff. Residents also felt that the mini-roundabout junction was unsafe.

A letter had been written to Highways querying whether it would be possible for passes to be issued for parking at Wharf Road.

Councillor Harper felt sympathy for residents. He asked if Councillor Hall could raise the matter with the portfolio holder at the District Council.

Councillor Lawson noted that this would not set a precedent, as a resident of the town already had a pass due to a similar situation.

Councillor Wood noted that this was a unique situation and felt that a permit pass would be appropriate. He thought that the three ward Councillors and Councillor Hall should make representation to the District Council for permits, citing the road restrictions and the lack of off-road parking at the rear of the properties.

Councillor Hart advised that the original scheme for the development of South View had suggested some parking, but it would not accommodate 12 vehicles.

Councillor Nicosia had expressed concern about this junction for a long time, and it had been featured on the front page of the Chronicle. She found it to be very dangerous and very difficult to cross, and felt that it was in need of further action.

Councillor Harper said that Councillors Hall, Wood, Sheldon and Lawson should act.

Councillor Wood thanked Councillor Salt for raising the point.

29. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Hart in the Local Plan residential site specifics in Biddulph. Minute 32, Councillor Salt is an employee of Stoke 6th Form College.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests. Councillors Wood and Harper are ex-Fire Service employees. Minute 28- Councillor Rogers is a friend of the owner of Saxon Tyres.

31. MINUTES

- a) It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18 July 2017. It was noted that Councillor Harper had been in attendance, Councillor Hawley had offered apologies.
- b) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18 July 2017. It was noted that Councillor Harper had been in attendance,

Councillor Hawley had offered apologies. Reference Minute 21, Councillor Jackson asked if Councillor Harper had an update; this would be an emergency item on the General Purposes Committee meeting to follow Town Council. Reference Minute 27, Councillor Jackson asked that the words 'would impair growth' be replaced with 'may impair growth'. This was agreed.

- c) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 August 2017. Reference Minute 24, a grant of £9,000 has been awarded; The Chief Officer was commended for her hard work in securing the grant.
- d) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 8 August 2017.

32. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor highlighted the following issue:

Biddulph High School was becoming a Multi Academy Trust, joining with Stoke on Trent 6th Form College. Biddulph Town Council had not given any input, and had not been a consultee. Councillor Salt is an employee of Stoke 6th Form College and stated that the college had been part of the scheme for 18 months. Councillor Nicosia had attended a meeting at the school, as a parent, and noted that fellow parents were happy with the scheme and that the 6th Form College was a good match, and would add interest to the curriculum.

Councillor Harper thanked the Mayor for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.

Councillor Lawson noted that as an Academy it was nothing to do with the Council.

Councillor Wood responded that it would have been nice to have been consulted, as a matter of courtesy.

Councillor Nicosia noted that the High School was already an Academy, this was merely an amalgamation.

33. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

It was moved to receive the resignation of Councillor Jones from the Planning Committee; there were four vacancies on this Committee. It was moved to receive an updated sheet of Committee Membership 2017/18, this was tabled. Councillor thanked Councillor Jones for his support and commitment over the years serving on the Planning Committee.

34. THE FUTURE OF THE BIDDULPH FESTIVAL- ITEM REQUESTED BY CLLR WAYNE ROGERS

Councillor Rogers wanted to start the ball rolling for the future of the Festival now that the founders had retired. 20 years previously, Messrs Cox, Harris and Stanway had started the Festival with 6 events, this year it had hosted 71. Councillor Rogers did not want this to be the end of the Festival. Mesdames Brown and Hardwick were also stepping down, but Councillor Rogers and Mrs Jackie Nevill – currently Treasurer and Vice Chairman would remain.

Councillor Rogers noted that increased footfall was significant in the town during the Festival and he had started to appeal for more volunteers; he reported that some Councillors had offered to help and was hopeful that a new committee would be formed. Councillor Rogers noted that many former Mayors had reported to him that the Festival had been an eye-opener for them and had brought many people into the town. Councillor Rogers asked for ideas to move the Festival forward. He pointed out that Biddulph Town Council had always been supportive both financially and hands-on.

Councillor Sheldon called for a vote of thanks to those who had run the Festival especially Councillor Rogers, who had given hours of his time. She thanked the previous committee for the smooth running of the Festival, and wished its members well in retirement.

Councillor Harper echoed Councillor Sheldon, noting that Councillor Rogers had spent more time in town than at home; he was willing to stand on the Committee and offered his help.

Councillor Jones would also help. He thought that community leadership should be expanded rather than it being Council-led, but that people were apathetic; a small group of volunteers could only do so much, the community needed to engage. It could not be run by a dozen Councillors; it would be a shame if it died, it was a fantastic occasion. He asked for a date for a meeting, adding that people would pitch up.

Councillor McGuinness noted that Councillor Rogers had done a fantastic job over the past 20 years, adding that St Lawrence's Church had held a successful antique car event during the Festival. He would like to join the committee, not as an Officer, just a helper.

Councillor Wood had attended numerous functions in his capacity as Mayor, and praised the fantastic effort. He wanted the Town Council to formally recognise the work done over the past 20 years. Councillor Wood proposed to invite Messrs Harris, Cox and Stanway to give thanks to them for the work done over the years. The Festival had been well received by members of the public, he would be happy to be involved and build on the foundations. Councillor Wood proposed that the Town Council should recognise the work of the three founders with a presentation event.

Councillor Hall offered his thanks adding that the town owed a large debt to the three for the development of the Festival and the town.

Councillor Rogers thanked members. He added that the Festival could not be Council-led as you cannot award a grant to yourself. He would arrange a meeting and invite the Events and Partnerships Officer too.

Councillor Harper proposed that a special finance meeting is called, when the money could be ring-fenced as it is for some other groups.

Councillor Wood proposed inviting the founders to thank them in person. Councillor Jones suggested holding a buffet following the meeting. The Chief Officer and Mayor would agree the logistics of this.

35. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

bp Architecture professional architectural services garden adjacent to Sainsbury's/Brammers	720.00
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Expenditure below £500

Market Imprest – stall construction	190.00
Ebm printers – Artisan market business cards	31.20

Christmas Lights unmetred supply 26 November 2016 – 31 March 2017	86.73
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CJ Skelhorne 2 bar clips for mayoral chain	32.64
NALC – annual subscription to Local Council Review	17.00

Get mapping plc - Parish Online annual subscription	336.00
Brian Carter un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00

Credit card payments

Safelincs water mist fire extinguisher and fire blanket for Artisan Market	57.74
Sign Local Ltd – banner for Neighbourhood Plan group	45.92

b) Supplementary accounts (to be tabled)

amendment Market Imprest – stall construction	180.00
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Expenditure in excess of £500

Salaries	4565.48
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 September	1611.82
Staffs Pension Fund	1728.27

D Allcock – Lengthsman work July to August 2017	580.00
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Expenditure below £500

St Lawrence's Church Hall hosting SLCC branch meeting	£70.00
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petty cash	37.78
npower Christmas lights standing charge	34.51
Eyre and Elliston – 25 LED lightbulbs for Council Chamber	93.00

It was agreed that the following item would be discussed following the General Purposes Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.38 pm

The meeting resumed at 9.23 pm

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.”

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

36. LENGTHSMAN TENDER

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm

Signed Date