

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2017

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; he then invited Rev'd Derek Balsdon to lead members in a time of prayer; this included a time of silence in memory of two former Councillors who had died recently, John Brown and David Stone. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jones
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding

61.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PCSO Sherratt was invited to address the meeting.

He updated on the Bargain Booze robbery; a person would be appearing in Crown Court on 3 March 2017.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) had been applied for, including High Street, Millennium Gardens and Sainsbury's car park.

Three PCSOs would be leaving soon, including PCSO Sherratt, but would be replaced.

Councillor Rogers had reported a safety issue on the pelican crossing outside the shop where he worked. PCSO Sherratt responded that Sergeant Slinn had authorised warning letters to be sent to the owners of the vehicles, noting that if caught again the Police would prosecute. PCSO Sherratt advised that photographic evidence should include the place, date and time of the offence and willingness to complete a statement; the Police would prosecute. This information negated Agenda Item 6 on the evenings GP agenda.

Councillor Jones noted that PCSO Sherratt would soon be leaving Biddulph and offered thanks on behalf of the Council for his work particularly with the Roaches School and the community; he would be missed. An impromptu round of applause followed.

Councillor Hall added that all supported the thanks; he offered PCSO Sherratt best wishes for the future; he had changed the face of policing. PCSO Sherratt responded that it had been an honour.

Councillor Hart added that Biddulph had the best PCSO team in North Staffordshire and we were very lucky; PCSO Sherratt had helped the younger ones along. Councillor Jackson agreed adding that being 'brought up on Springfield Road he can't be all that bad'.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom Reference Minute 57 – Councillor Rogers was employed by FW and D Wain
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Hart in the site specifics in the Local Plan; Councillor Lovatt as Chair of Friends of Biddulph Valley Park; Councillor McGuinness as Churchwarden at St Lawrence's, landlord of Saxon Tyres.

63. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Walley

64. MINUTES

- a) It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 17 January 2017
- b) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17 January 2017. Reference Minute 71 Councillor Harper asked if a re-invite had been offered. Councillor Jackson had been concerned about the situation and had instructed County Council Officer Gail Edwards to investigate; information received would be passed to the Chief Officer.
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2017 were received.
- d) It was Resolved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2017. Reference Minute 60, Councillor Jones asked if a project plan had been received. It had not.

65. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The Mayor had attended a meeting of the Twinning Committee. Discussion had taken place about commemorating 30 years of Twinning between Biddulph and Fusignano. They Mayor would purchase a trowel, which would be used to lay cement at the extension of the Town Hall. This trowel would be attached to a plinth, engraved and given to the Italians who arrive on 1 July 2017 to cement the friendship between the two towns. All were in favour.
- b) The Mayor wished Councillor Jackson to update Councillors in relation to a meeting that would discuss car park charges.
Councillor Jackson reported that there would be an increase in car parking charges across the Staffordshire Moorlands. Charges in Biddulph would have the highest increase – 50% which equates to an increase of 20p. Councillor Jackson

requested support of the Town Council for his proposal that SMDC give provision for 1 hour parking with the appropriate fee. This would fall in line with charges in both Leek and Cheadle and would help the flow of traffic in the town. Councillor Nicosia asked what the charges would be; 60p for two hours. All were in favour with one abstention – Councillor Hall.

c Knypersley Pool Run

The Mayor would be competing in the race and asked for sponsorship either in cash or via her 'just giving' page.

d Volunteer Event

This would be held on Saturday 25 February at the Victoria Centre, all members were welcome to attend.

e Fairtrade Event

This would be held at the Victoria Centre on Saturday 4 March 2017. Cloth strips for a world record attempt had been included in the minutes pack.

66. APPROVAL OF THE INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR THE PERIOD 2017/18

Renewal documents had been sent in advance of the meeting; the Town Council was in the second year of a long-term agreement with Zurich. Members approved the renewal of insurance for 2017/18.

67. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

V Brown – Events Director	787.92
Brian Carter – Woodhouse gates	40.00
Severn Trent Water – burial ground	71.88
N power – Christmas lights – metred supply	123.23
FW and D Wain – cable ties, replacement bulbs - lights switch on	18.60
CJ Skelhorne Jewellers - new links, polish, gold plate Mayoral chain	1404.00
SLCC Enterprises Ltd – training seminar in Telford	112.20
Kent County Council – copying charges	129.08
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Ltd - maps for Neighbourhood Plan	180.00
S Haydon – flowers for Mrs Stone	25.00
Viking Direct – office supplies	308.28
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – training x 3 Stafford	45.00
S Haydon – travel Uttoxeter Northwich, Telford, Stafford	108.45
Severn Trent Water – Woodhouse Burial Ground	25.50
D Allcock - Lengthsman	180.00
- Christmas Tree removal	20.00
- skips at burial grounds	355.00
Total	555.00
Staffs Pension Fund	1333.28
Salaries	3546.58
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 March 2017	1427.19

Petty cash

38.28

It was Moved that the following item be discussed following the meeting of the General Purposes meeting.