

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2018**

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; Rev'd Nick Witham led 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 Hart  
Councillor Hawley  
Councillor Jackson  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Lawson  
Councillor Lovatt  
Councillor Nicosia  
Councillor Redfern  
Councillor Rogers  
Councillor Rushton  
Councillor Sheldon  
Councillor Walley

### **83.17 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.*

Reverend Nick Witham was invited to address the meeting. He spoke about the Biddulph Methodist Church community projects and the Victoria Centre: what they are doing and what they plan to do. Plans were to restructure and build for the future; Rev'd Witham reassured members that the ethos was not changing. He noted that there were a number of community spaces in the town and the Methodist Church needed to 'up their game'.

#### Plan 1

A Drug and Alcohol project to start in September for 12 weeks, free of charge. This is run by two very experienced professionals and would be a joint project with the Oasis Community Church. There was no such facility for the Biddulph area. Rev'd Witham was conscious that suicides in young men in Biddulph were increasing, especially on 'the estate'; there was a large amount of excessive drinking. Groups of workers and volunteers had begun to work in this area.

#### Plan 2

To build on work with the older generation. Two young women want to start a befriending service; talks had taken place with Age UK.

### Plan 3

To hold a film club for older people to help them to socialise and be together.

### Plan 4

A half-term holiday club from 9-12.30 for 5-9 years. 28 young people had attended on Monday, 24 on Tuesday; this was in partnership with the Oasis Community Church. Connections had been made with other churches in the town to work together with church and youth work.

Rev'd Witham reassured members again that the ethos of the church would not change. He was considering running a debt relief and debt counselling service

The Mayor thanked Rev'd Witham for attending and telling us what was happening.

Councillor Jones felt this was a great initiative; drug and alcohol abuse affected all levels of people. He added that this Council had recently been gifted film equipment; maybe a link could be formed.

Councillor Rogers noted that the Daybreak bus had recently been vandalised. He had been trying to locate alternate parking for the bus and had wondered about nursing homes.

Councillor Sheldon appreciated the work that Rev'd Witham was trying to do. Drug and alcohol abuse was spread throughout the town. Rev'd Witham noted that the initiative would be open across the town.

## **84. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Harper  
Councillor Salt  
Councillor Swift  
Councillor Whilding

Councillor Wood announced that Councillor Harper had requested a formal leave of absence due to ill health. This was approved.

## **85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: None.

## **86. MINUTES**

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 16 January 2018 were approved and signed.
- b) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 January 2018 were received.
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 January 2018 were received. Councillor Redfern had sent apologies.
- d) The Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 13 January 2018 were received.

## **87. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor had met a lady of 104 years at Tall Oaks Nursing Home; a lovely lady who had communicated really well.

He had attended the Bowling Club shelter ceremony.

On Sunday, the Running Club would be holding the annual 'Knype Fun Run' at 10.30am followed by the 5k race at 11am at Knypersley Pool in aid of the Mayor's Charities.

The Civic Ball would be held on 27 April 2018, at the Town Hall 7-7.30 pm, entertainment by Trev Moray and Kath Morris.

## **88. UPDATE ON BIDDULPH SCHOOL LEARNER'S FORUM**

The Chief Officer noted that the minutes from this meeting were included within the packs. This had been a very valuable opportunity to engage with young people, and it was positive that the Town Council were hosting these meetings.

At the next meeting there would be a chance to re-design the High Street, and feed into the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

## **89. TO APPROVE THE INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR 2018/19**

The Chief Officer noted that the Policy Schedule was included within the packs for Councillors to consider, helping them manage risk effectively. This was the last year of a three-year agreement with Zurich.

Councillor Rogers queried the value of the Mayor's chain of office; he thought it was worth more. The Chief Officer would query this.

It was proposed to accept this insurance renewal quotation by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Jones; all agreed.

## **90. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE UPDATE ON POLICING WITHIN THE TOWN FOR EVENTS**

The Chief Officer circulated a note that had been provided by Sergeant Slinn in relation to the role of the Police at events; Sergeant Slinn could not attend the meeting, and had sent his apologies.

Councillor Rogers had always felt that a Police Officer's role was traffic control. The note stated: *Legal opinion suggests that responsibility for public safety rests with event organisers, landowners on which the event takes place and the Local Authority if the event takes place on a road...The responsibility for the safety of both participants and other road users rests with the organiser.*

Councillor Salt felt that regardless of the legalities, police presence at events counted a lot towards people's perceptions; she felt that this Council should make representations.

Councillor Wood proposed that a letter is written to the Police and Crime Commissioner, stating that this town expects a police presence at events. This was seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

**91. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FOOTPATHS SUB-COMMITTEE:  
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL SHOULD WORK WITH PARTNERS TO BECOME A  
MEMBER OF THE 'WALKERS ARE WELCOME' SCHEME (NOTE ATTACHED).  
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL SHOULD PAY THE FIRST TWO YEAR'S  
SUBSCRIPTION COSTS, OF £100 PER YEAR**

Councillor Wood felt this would be a benefit to the town.

Councillor Lovatt noted that it would provide a focal point for people walking, with national links. This would fit in with the work of Chief Officer and Events and Partnerships Officer trying to promote footpaths. The Town Council would be a partner, but this would need to be a Community Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Davies and seconded by Councillor Hart to pay the first two years subscriptions; this was agreed.

**92. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE**

**a) The following accounts were received for payment:**

**Expenditure in excess of £500**

CCLA Investment Management Ltd Transfer to Public Sector Deposit Fund Finance Committee meeting 18 April 2017 Minute 43.17	300,000.00
bp architecture for work on Community Garden on Station Road	1,100.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance Annual insurance premium	1,477.64
Kent County Council Photocopier three month instalment of contract	582.65

**Expenditure below £500**

Biddulph Moor Village Hall Donation on behalf of Mr Neville in recompense for work at Biddulph Christmas Lights Switch on event	300.00
Kent County Council Copy charges October 2017 to January 2018	157.52
Viking Direct - Office supplies	250.80
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association Local Councillor training – Cllr Court	20.00
Iron Age Designs Repair to railings at War Memorial 25% deposit	86.08
Brian Carter un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00

Tidysite Skip Services UK Ltd Empty skip at Woodhouse Lane Burial Ground	19.80
PA Martin, t/a P&R Graphics Signage at Biddulph Town Burial Ground	84.00
RG Standell – Lengthsman work	186.00
Mr WB Harrison Replacement for damaged lock at Park Lane Allotment site	21.81
Royal Mail Group Ltd Pre-paid Postage for Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires	9.92

**Credit card payments**

Shutterstock monthly payment	19.00
Facebook - post boost, authorised for promotion of Neighbourhood Plan Householder Questionnaire	14.12
Go Daddy – hosting for website	115.06

**b) Supplementary accounts (to be tabled)**

Expenditure in excess of £500

Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd Purchase of Omega Financial Software and first year annual support and maintenance	1195.00
Salaries	4614.34
HMRC to be paid 1 March 2018	1646.32
Staffs Pension Fund	1750.87

Expenditure below £500

Biddulph Rotary – contribution to Santa’s sleigh As agreed at Finance Committee minute 29.17 and approved at January Town Council	100.00
Waterplus - Water at Town Burial Ground	17.30
Finley Hulme Inputting date from Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Approved at Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting 15 February 2018	£364.50
Npower - Christmas lights metered supply	127.63
Viking Direct – part of order shipped separately	58.03
S Haydon Gorilla Glue heavy duty double sided mounting tape For market repairs	5.00
Eric Mountford Fencing and gate around the skip at the Town Burial Ground	750.00

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance – land at Springfield Road	270.00
Petty cash	37.56
S Haydon	25.00
Reimburse flowers for ex Councillor Deaville, HR minute 13.17	

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Signed ..... Date .....