

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor; Rev'd Darren Fraser 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 Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

93.17 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.

Georgina Woodcock - Natwest Community Banker, Scam and Fraud Awareness event on Friday 6 April 2018, 1.30-2.30 pm

Ms Woodcock noted that it had been a 'central decision' to close branches, and her role was to work with the community, providing face-to-face support. Currently there are surgeries every other Tuesday in Sainsbury's Community Room and home visits are available for vulnerable people. Ms Woodcock can deal with anything except processing cash and cheques.

Part of Ms Woodcock's role is to deliver educational presentations, especially around fraud and scam awareness. This is done in partnership with Staffordshire Police and Trading Standards to make people aware of local and national issues.

Ms Woodcock invited Councillors to attend a session on 6 April 2018 1.30- 2.30 in the Council Chamber, which was being delivered with the support of Staffordshire Police; this is available for anyone that would like more information. The session will cover online safety and provide support for victims.

The Mayor thanked Ms Woodcock for attending and for the important initiative.

Councillor Sheldon asked how confidential the room was at Sainsbury's.

Ms Woodcock confirmed that she sat at the back of the room where she cannot be heard from outside; she had carried out a risk assessment and operated an appointment system with only occasional drop in sessions. Confidential appointments could take place at home.

Councillor Hart reported that his constituents were concerned about the bank closures, as it was difficult to travel; could the bank share another's premises?

Ms Woodcock noted that it would be cost prohibitive; however, it was possible to pay monies in at the Post Office for many banks. The Post Office was open for longer hours than the banks, even opening on a Sunday. Cash can be paid in and with a debit card, can be withdrawn too. Ms Woodcock noted that there had been fewer closures of accounts than had been predicted, telephone banking had increased.

Councillor Jackson suggested advertising the fraud and scam awareness via the U3A. Ms Woodcock had been in contact with groups at Cheadle and Kidsgrove and would soon be meeting those at Biddulph; she noted that a lot of fraud and crime still went unreported. She explained about the Staffordshire Police smart alert system and encouraged members to sign up.

94. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Swift

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom. Minute 102a Councillor Rogers travel expenses.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: Councillors Jones and Salt are members of the Royal British Legion.

96. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13 February 2018 were approved and signed. Minute 90 paragraph 3- it was Councillor Jones who spoke as Councillor Salt was not in attendance.
- b) The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 February 2018 were received.
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 March 2018 were received.
- d) The Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 13 March 2018 were received.

97. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor noted that this was a busy time of year, which was moving towards a conclusion. He had attended the 50th anniversary event for Biddulph Rotary, the Congleton Mayor's Ball, the Biddulph Youth and Community Zone (BYCZ) birthday celebrations and the annual Fairtrade event.

The Knypersley 5-mile race had been a fantastic day and was very well attended.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the Civic Ball would be held on Friday 27 April 2018.

98. VERBAL UPDATE ON BIDDULPH SCHOOL LEARNER'S FORUM

The Chief Officer updated Councillors that the School Learner's Forum had been hosted by Biddulph Town Council in the Council Chamber.

Two representatives from each school had attended and the group were joined by consultants from Urban Vision; it had been an interesting session. The workshop had asked the young people what was good, bad and what could be changed about Biddulph. They were then asked to draw a map of a key journey, and there was discussion about shared space outside the Town Hall. Information would be fed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Forum would meet again in June 2018.

99. CENOTAPH AND CENTENARY WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION:

*To **approve** that, as part of the Centenary Commemorations, the Mercian Regiment should be given the key/ freedom of the town. This is a permanent and tangible mark of respect to those that lost their lives in the First World War.*

Councillor Salt reported that since the agenda had been sent out, the idea of granting the freedom of the town would need revision, after consultation with NALC - National Association of Local Councils. It was not possible to grant this to a regiment, only to named individuals.

Councillor Salt noted that the aim was to leave a lasting legacy to show that we honoured the Regiment. Councillor Salt updated Councillors that the main focus for commemorations for the Royal British Legion was on saying 'thank you', to those who came home and those who stayed at home. The First World War was an important catalyst for change. Councillor Salt proposed that in order to move forward, the Town Council should agree in principle that they are happy to give thanks to the Mercian Regiment.

This was seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed. Information would be provided at a future meeting as to how this could be recognised.

100. 2018/19 ACTION PLAN

The Chief Officer noted that a draft of the action plan had been considered at the General Purposes Committee, following discussion about priorities at the Committees and Sub-Committees whilst setting budgets.

Councillor Wood thanked the Officers for all the work that had gone into this. This put the Council on a good footing for the future.

Councillor Hart moved to accept the plan; this was seconded by Councillor McGuinness and approved.

101. 2018/19 MEETING DATES

Councillor Hall proposed the 2018/19 meeting dates, including Sub-Committees, Committees, Town Council meetings and Town Council events.

This was seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed.

The Chief Officer confirmed that there would now be no significant changes to this.

102. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Ltd Habitat digitizing of Biddulph for Neighbourhood Plan	1800.00
Eric Mountford Land off Marsh Green Road Supply and fit 2 kissing gates	800.00
Kent County Council Photocopier contract	582.65

Expenditure below £500

J Hancock - Travel and parking for IT meeting in Stafford	25.30
Cllr Rogers - Travel to Moorlands Assembly at Leek	9.45
Cllr Hawley - Travel and parking for SPCA meeting in Stafford	28.00
City B Group - 1 gazebo with canopy for Artisan Market	354.00
Viking Direct – office supplies	106.76
BP architecture - Underpayment on cheque number 6304	10.00
Waterplus - Water at Woodhouse Burial Ground Jan-Mar 2018	14.91
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd - 1100 litre bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground	19.80
Brian Carter - Un/lock Woodhouse Burial Ground gates	40.00
Sarah Haydon Purple lights requested by the Mayor to mark International Women's Day and support for the WASPI campaign	42.80

Credit card payments

SMDC – planning application for Station Road site	231.00
Paypal – fee for personal licence training	180.00
Shutterstock – monthly payment for downloadable data	19.00

To be paid 1st April 2018

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association Annual subscription	1188.00
Communicorp	75.00
Annual subscription to Local Councils Update SMDC	418.99

National non-domestic rate demand
Town Burial Ground

b) Supplementary accounts (to be tabled)

Expenditure in excess of £500

Salaries	4767.03
HMRC to be paid 1 March 2018	1693.77
Staffs Pension Fund	1802.03

Expenditure below £500

SLCC	20.83
Principal membership	
Petty cash	49.45

To be paid 1st April 2018

ADB Gardencare	9900.00
First half of contract for burial	
SMDC	90.00
Lease of land at Congleton Road for allotments	
1 of 4 payments	

The Mayor proposed that the following item is discussed following the meeting of the General Purposes Committee. This was agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 7.50 pm

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The meeting resumed at 8.30 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.”

Signed Date