

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2016

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor and Chief Officer. The Town Crier invited Rev'd Lindsay Clowes to lead members in a time of prayer. The Town Mayor invited everyone to join in a minutes silence to remember Kate Harrison previous Councillor and Mayoress of Biddulph who had recently died. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

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

38.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jill Norman (Operations Manager- North), Support Staffordshire, previously Chief Executive at SMCVS (Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Services) was invited to address the meeting.

Support Staffordshire receive funding from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) and is keen to support organisations and individuals in this area. Six of North Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Services had joined Support Staffordshire two years ago, which was based in Leek; there was a presence in Biddulph primarily run by volunteers.

Aims:

1. to support voluntary and community groups - advertising volunteer vacancies
2. volunteering for all - find volunteer placements
3. voice and representation - helping organisations to get their voice heard

Support Staffordshire runs a voluntary car scheme and has two minibuses, soon to become three. If there was enough demand, one might be based in Biddulph.

Support Staffordshire facilitates networking via a quarterly forum, the last one was held in Biddulph in September 2016.

Support Staffordshire do not receive direct funding for its volunteer service and any monies received from Biddulph Town Council would be used to continue a physical presence in Biddulph. If Councillors were aware of any organisations which needed help or support, please contact Jill Norman.

Jill Norman passed information to Councillors, noting that membership of Support Staffordshire was free to organisations and they were encouraged to join; an electronic newsletter was available - www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk – Councillors were encouraged to read it and refer groups to them.

Councillor Jackson was very pleased to hear about the bus, and queried where it would be garaged; he encouraged fellow Councillors and The Chronicle reporter to highlight the possibility that it might be based in Biddulph. Jill Norman would send out a press release. Councillor Jones asked where they advertised and suggested the Biddulph Times which was delivered to every letterbox. Jill Norman replied that a regular press release was sent to the Biddulph Chronicle and asked for contact information for the Biddulph Times. Councillor Harper asked if a driver was available. Jill Norman replied that there is one, but if a group had a driver that may be easier.

Councillor Sheldon noted that there was a nationwide problem of lack of volunteers. Jill Norman said that the average age of communities was older; with the retirement age rising, active members were older and older. She hoped to encourage younger people to volunteer. Councillor Nicosia asked about the minimum age for volunteers. Jill Norman said that it depended on what kind of volunteering, but it was usually 16+. Uniformed groups could be given details of community groups on their patch; if younger people get into the habit of volunteering, they keep it up throughout their lives.

Councillor Nicosia thought there maybe the opportunity for Support Staffordshire to work with Biddulph High School; students would develop new skills and build confidence, helpful if applying for university. Jill Norman said she would be trying to do this.

Councillor Rogers asked if travel costs or out of pocket expenses could be reimbursed. Jill Norman said it was good practice to pay volunteers expenses, groups were encouraged to do this, and most did.

PCSO Sherratt

PCSO Sherratt reported that he would be hosting an event on Monday 12 December 2016 in the Council Chamber between 12pm and 3pm. Among those present would be: Chief Constable Jane Sawyers; the new Police Inspector Mark Thorley; Adam Yates of PVFC. An informal buffet would be provided. All present were invited to attend.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom; Councillor Davies was claiming expenses; Councillor Salt is a member of the Royal British Legion; Councillor Hart relating to the Local Plan, site specifics.
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared

40. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Redfern

41. MINUTES

- a It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18 October 2016.
- b The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18 October 2016 were received.
- c The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 8 November 2016 were received.
- d The Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 8 November 2016 were received.

42. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a The Mayor thought that the Remembrance Parade, with over 1,000 people in town, was one of biggest she had ever seen. Arrangements went well following the new order. The Mayor thanked; John Robinson, Biddulph Rotary Club, Rev'd Nick Witham and Biddulph Methodist Church; Biddulph Marching Band and members of the public. Two letters of appreciation had been received. Councillor Jones appreciated the lovely comments about Sunday as he had been unable to attend; the comments about the Union Flags were especially thoughtful. Councillor Harper asked that a note of acknowledgement is sent in return. The Chief Officer would do this.
- b The Mayor would hold a Pride of Biddulph evening on Saturday 25 February 2017 from 6.30 pm at the Victoria Centre, to say thanks to the volunteers of Biddulph.
- c The Mayoral Badge of Office had been re-enamelled, it was now absolutely beautiful.
- d Councillor Lovatt presented the Fairtrade renewal certificate to the Town Council. The Mayor congratulated all who had helped to achieve this.
- e The Mayor noted that street lights were not working at the junction of Springfield Road and Mayfield Road, she had been contacted by many concerned elderly residents. She had been told that the problem would be fixed by 14 December 2016. Councillor Jackson noted that he too had reported this issue three weeks previously; the issue was with Western Power, permission was needed to dig up the highway. Councillor Jackson had requested this to be fast

tracked and work would start on 28 November 2016, in the meantime Councillor Jackson had requested more visible Police presence.

43. ADOPTION OF THE GUIDANCE FOR THE RECORDING OF PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Hawley noted that this item had arisen as the Planning Committee meetings were being recorded. The guidance was based on that used by SMDC. Councillor Hall moved to adopt the guidance. Councillor Hawley proposed an amendment of point 2.6, to add that if a confidential item was being discussed, the public must take the recording equipment away. Councillor Court seconded the proposal of Councillor Hawley. Councillor Hall moved the amendment. All were in favour.

Councillor Jones asked what would stop unscrupulous people editing the material and posting on social media; he wondered if this Council should also record meetings. Councillor Rogers felt that this Council would be able to record via the newly installed hearing loop.

Councillor Hart felt that our public seating arrangement should be altered so that the public area and those entering for the following meeting were not filmed. It must also be made clear that filming would not be allowed if children were present

Councillor Rogers noted that Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) had reported that filming was taking place at many other Council. A designated area for filming should be created, it must be made clear that if children were in the room filming cannot happen, and it would be theft of electricity if the equipment was plugged in. It was agreed that this should be monitored.

44. YOUTH ADVISOR MEETING REPORT

The Chief Officer reported on the meeting. Gillian Reynolds had given an interesting presentation on Fairtrade.

The Youth Advisors were encouraged to feel involved with decision making:

- If the young people were planning to attend the lights switch on, they were encouraged to look and listen, and bring feedback to the next meeting;
- There was discussion about Biddulph Grange Country Park. The young people were asked to walk around and see how they thought it could be developed;
- The Chief Officer distributed pictures of proposed Signage and Fingerposts for the town centre, comments were welcomed.

45. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following account was paid prior to the meeting

CJ Skelhorne – re-enamel and engrave Town Mayor’s badge of office	456.00
Kent County Council – photocopying charges	73.52
J Gaunt – postage stamps	33.00
Bourne International – torch key rings	108.00

V Brown – Events Director	787.92
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market imprest – for stall construction	160.00
Moorside Memorials cleaning market stalls	150.00
Councillor Davies reimburse market tractor insurance	123.21
Christmas switch on stall construction	160.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	25.00
Brian Carter – Woodhouse gates	40.00
Protech Electrical Limited – bracket testing Christmas Lights	2088.00
Npower – Christmas Lights standing charge	18.52
Staffs Pension Fund	1333.29
Salaries	3546.77
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 September 2016	1427.19
V Brown for lantern materials	129.22
V Brown additional invoice for lantern materials	71.93
Petty cash	23.95

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed Date.....