

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Chief Officer introduced the Deputy Mayor; the Deputy Mayor invited Rev'd Nick Witham to lead a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

37.17. 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.

No requests had been made.

38. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Mayor Councillor Wood
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson

39. 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.

- b) Other Disclosable Interests. Minute 44b Councillor Hall as a member of Biddulph Rotary.

40. MINUTES

- a) It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15 August 2017.
- b) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 August 2017.
- c) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 September 2017. Councillor Jones had not attended the meeting; he had arrived early for the following meeting.
- d) It was resolved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 12 September 2017.

41. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor was not in attendance.

42. TOWN COUNCIL USE OF SOLICITORS

This item was raised following the damage to the burial ground gates to enable the Chief Officer to open discussion with a solicitor.

It was **resolved** that the Chief Officer has the power to instruct solicitors, as appropriate, with preference being given to local organisations. Proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Jones. A vote was taken and this was agreed.

43. INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE ARTISAN MARKET (REQUESTED BY CLLR SALT)

Councillor Salt proposed the following - To **resolve** that this Council does not condone the sale of offensive and inappropriate items at the Artisan Market; such items could include real fur or flags.

Councillor Salt had taken photos of a stall at Leek market that was selling a Nazi swastika flag. Councillor Salt felt that this was highly and wholly inappropriate. The Chief Officer had also been approached by a charity regarding the sale of fur.

Councillor Rogers concurred with a ban on the sale of real fur, but spoke as the Chairman of a model flying club, which hosts a 1940's event where the Nazi flag is flown. He added that we won the war and most people do not find the flag offensive, it was just history, it happened.

Councillor Jones responded that in the confines of a club or a re-enactment society was one thing, but on sale was a different thing and he found it to be offensive. Councillor Jones fully supported what Councillor Salt was saying; he was concerned that this was only one thing that may be upsetting for people- what about the sale of pornography or live animals.

Councillor Lovatt was disappointed with Councillor Rogers' remarks; she thought that the flag was deeply offensive and was insulted that it was on public display at Leek market, she seconded the resolution.

Councillor Harper felt it best to leave well alone, if people don't buy it the sellers will go away. He added that fly fishermen needed real fur to make the flies; he did not know what could be done, but added that if things were banned, they went underground.

Councillor Hart proposed an amendment to the read - To **resolve** that this Council does not condone the sale of offensive and inappropriate items at the Artisan Market. This was seconded by Councillor Hall.

Councillor Redfern supported the amendment and wondered who would decide what was appropriate: a body, a person, or a committee. Councillor Redfern would find the flag offensive and would not like to be confronted with it, he added that there were places in the world where people depended on fur for their livelihood.

Councillor Hall thought that it would help if further information was published in the rules to ensure stall holders were aware in advance.

Councillor Nicosia thought it was all very personable, some may or may not feel it appropriate.

Councillor Sheldon noted that her shop sold sheepskin products and items trimmed with fur so she would also be condemned. She felt sad that somewhere there may be discussion about our flag, the representation of our country.

Councillor Davies supported the amendment, which gave the staff the remit to take something inappropriate away; if the matter needed further discussion it could be taken to the Civic Committee.

Councillor Lovatt spoke about the amendment noting that this was not hypothetical, there was photographic proof that this had happened ten miles away, she added that this Council needed to put the marker down. Councillor Lovatt proposed the addition of the words 'such items include Nazi memorabilia' to the amendment.

Councillor Jones noted that this Council would decide what was offensive and proposed the following 'to **resolve** that this Council does not condone the sale of what it considers to be offensive and/or inappropriate items at our Artisan Market', this was seconded by Councillor Rogers.

Councillor Salt proposed an amendment with the addition of the word 'racist', to explain that the resolution was in line with the Town Council's policy on racism. This was agreed

Councillor Salt noted that the trader at Leek had been banned from the market for two weeks, and 16,000 people had petitioned for no Nazi flags at Leek Market. Councillor Salt made it clear that she was only talking about the Nazi swastika and no other and did not condone its sale.

Councillor Hart withdrew his amendment in favour of that of Councillor Jones and supported it.

The Deputy Mayor summed up the position

The wording was now 'to **resolve** that this Council does not condone the sale of what it considers to be racist, offensive and/or inappropriate items at our Artisan Market.' A vote was taken and this was agreed.

44. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure in excess of £500

Bridestone and Brydges Ltd Delivery and placement of Boulders for Springfield Road site	3360.00
Moorside Memorial Work at Garden of Remembrance Removal of old chippings and membrane and replace with new	1100.00
Biddulph in Bloom 2 nd of 4 grant payments	6250.00

Expenditure below £500

Water plus – water at burial ground	104.36
Brian Carter – close and open gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00
Kent County Council copies charges, photocopier	230.32
AJ environmental – annual mole contract	280.00
Eyre and Elliston – VAT for Chamber light bulbs	15.50
Tidysite – skip at Woodhouse Burial Ground	19.80
Market imprest	180.00
Jodie Hancock - batteries for display cabinet	8.00
<u>Credit card payments</u>	
3 x A frames	116.94
Size 9 boots for Market	15.00
Vista print – blank postcards for Neighbourhood plan	44.79

b) Supplementary accounts (to be tabled)

Expenditure in excess of £500

Kent County Council – photocopier charges and settlement costs October 2017 – January 2018	582.65
Salaries	4565.48
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 October	1611.82
Staffs Pension Fund	1728.27

Expenditure below £500

Bridestone and Brydges Ltd haulage costs for additional loads for boulders at Springfield Road site	432.00
R G Standell – Lengthsman work from 1 September 2017	207.00
petty cash – amended total	35.05
J Hancock – travel for Artisan Market	24.30
Katherine Hartley catering for SLCC training, part to be reimbursed by the branch	202.50

Water Plus Ltd – water at Woodhouse Burial Ground	28.35
Rotary Club of Biddulph timber for rails at Bateman Walk, damaged in Storm Doris	100.00
ICCM – EROB training two members of staff to attend	312.00

The Deputy Mayor moved that the confidential item would be discussed following the end of the meeting of the General Purpose Committee. This was agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 7.50 pm

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.”

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

- 45. To approve a contractor for the maintenance of Springfield Road. Quotations received by 8 September 2017 to be tabled.**

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed Date