

# Biddulph Town Council

## ANNUAL REPORT



**2015 - 2016**

# Mayor's Review of the Town Council's year 2015-2016

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The past twelve months have absolutely flown by, and have been most enjoyable. You think you know Biddulph when you take on the role of Mayor, but you really get to know the people of Biddulph, they have been exceedingly generous and supportive, and they have a real reputation for welcoming people from outside the area. I am of the opinion that our folk are among the friendliest in Britain. I had the honour of being Mayor in 2005 and not a lot has changed. Our town has grown of course and each year our great team of Biddulph in Bloom volunteers, led by our Hilda, has gone from strength to strength, winning the respect and admiration of judges and being awarded Gold Awards almost year on year.

There is an abundance of talent in Biddulph; we have the Biddulph Male Voice Choir, the Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra, the Kingfield Singers, the Ukulele Band and the newly formed U3A choir. Biddulph Running Club supports the Mayor each year and raises an incredible amount of money. All of these groups have supported the Mayor's Charities, so many thanks to them. Quite honestly I cannot praise our town enough and am very proud to have represented Biddulph again by visiting other towns in and around the Staffordshire Moorlands and beyond, singing our praises wherever I have been, and that, in my opinion, is what being the Mayor is all about. It comes as no surprise that we carried out 86 Mayoral engagements and enjoyed each and every one.

There are many people to thank; the Deputy Mayor Jill, our Town Crier John, and Kate and Jean. There is one other person I would like to thank for his unstinting support and that is of course, my Consort, my dear friend Niels. He has been my rock in so many ways and has also praised Biddulph on every occasion when we have visited other towns. In conclusion, many thanks to my fellow Councillors for the honour you bestowed on me again. It has been a great privilege and I leave with many wonderful lasting memories. Thank You.

# The work of the Town Council

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- At the end of April 2016, **Kate Thacker** (Chief Officer) retired from Biddulph Town Council. Kate had worked for the Town Council for 28 years and is enormously well respected within the community. Biddulph Town Council wishes her well in her retirement and welcomes Sarah Haydon to the role of Chief Officer.
- In May, the Town Council welcomed **new Councillors** Court, Lawson, McGuinness, Nicosia, Rushton and Salt. We said goodbye to Councillors Adams, Deane, Deaville, Gibson and Tolley.
- A **new contract** has been awarded for the maintenance of Biddulph churchyard and the town burial grounds.
- The **Artisan Market** continues to go from strength to strength, with more stallholders and regular visitors each month.
- The Town Council started the process of writing a **Neighbourhood Plan**. This document will enable the community to plan what they would like the area to look like in the coming years. It is envisaged that this process will be complete in Spring 2018. The Neighbourhood Plan will consider tourism, the town centre and retail opportunities, employment, health and education provision, etc. This has coincided with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's consultation in relation to the Local Plan, which looks at potential sites for development and must be complete by Spring 2017.
- The **Lengthsman** scheme has continued to operate, clearing footpaths, maintaining road signage and completing verge/ ditch clearance work.
- There was continued support for the work of the **residents' and community associations**.
- Maintenance of **allotment sites** at Moorland Road and Park Lane was ongoing throughout the year. We continued planning for a new site on land at Springfield Road
- Over £60,000 of **grant assistance** was awarded to local community groups during the year.
- The Town Council is proud to support the **Biddulph in Bloom** team and joined in congratulating them for winning Gold and being awarded the overall winner in the Britain in Bloom Heart of England category. Biddulph in Bloom also won the Heart of England's Chairman's Memorial Trophy.
- **Christmas lights** and switch-on in the town centre and the Biddulph Moor tree.
- Practical and financial support for the **Biddulph Festival** events.
- Maintained the website – [www.biddulph.co.uk](http://www.biddulph.co.uk) - plus management of **social media** (Facebook & Twitter) pages
- In addition to all of the above, the **Town Council is represented** on many outside bodies and Members attended meetings throughout the year, reporting back to the Council at its monthly meetings.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2016

31-Mar-15	INCOME	31-Mar-16
£		£
232624.84	Precept	236280.00
26650.8	Council Tax Support Grant	19905.07
0.00	Agency services reimbursed	6885.00
0.00	Loan/capital receipts	0.00
825.05	Interest on investments	992.53
0.00	Sale of Assets	0.00
565.00	Room Lettings	750.00
61,920	Burial Ground	31059.29
522.33	Allotments	687.00
7802.22	Other	7255.26
<b>330910.44</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>303814.15</b>

31-Mar-15	EXPENDITURE	31-Mar-16
£		£
158694.79	General Administration	152020.90
5935.00	Lengthsman	5970.00
86164.78	S137 Payments	66411.28
0.00	Capital Spending	0.00
0.00	Loan Interest and Repayments	0.00
0.00	Running costs:	0.00
2,086.45	Allotments	1380.47
18207.87	Community Hall	24822.61
0.00	Parks and open spaces	0.00
32391.61	Burial Ground	27007.19
2378.16	Street Lighting	2464.18
<b>305858.66</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280076.63</b>

GENERAL FUND		
564102.63	Balance at 1 April 2015	589154.41
330910.44	Total income	303814.15
305858.66	Less Total Expenditure	280076.63
<b>589154.41</b>	<b>Balance at 31 Mar 16</b>	<b>612891.93</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

LONG TERM ASSETS			2015/16
	Investments		0.00
	Long term debtors		0.00
			0.00
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors (net of provision for doubtful debts)		700.00
	Payments in advance		0.00
	VAT recoverable		143.20
	Temporary lendings		0.00
	Cash in hand		619525.60
			620368.80
TOTAL ASSETS			<b>620368.80</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		5.64	
	Creditors	7464.23	
	Receipts in Advance	7.00	
	Cash overdrawn	0.00	
		<b>7476.87</b>	
NET ASSETS			<b>612891.93</b>
REPRESENTED BY:			
	General Fund		238493.93
	Reserves		374398.00
			<b>612891.93</b>
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority at 31 March 2016 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.			
Signed			
E E Baddeley		<i>Chairman</i>	
Date			
19-Apr-16			
Signed			
K S Thacker		<i>Responsible Finance Officer</i>	
Date			
13-Apr-16			

**BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCILLORS (until May 2019)**

<u>Councillor:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>Tel:</u>	<u>Ward:</u>
E E BADDELEY E: <a href="mailto:eebgillowheath@ntlworld.com">eebgillowheath@ntlworld.com</a>	6 Wedgwood Lane ST8 6RR	513002 07977 308043	West
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J DAVIES E: <a href="mailto:jim.davies@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk">jim.davies@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk</a>	69 Woodhouse Lane ST8 7EN	514478	North
D A HALL E: <a href="mailto:tony.hall@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk">tony.hall@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk</a>	3 Mow Lane ST8 6QH	512626	North
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