

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 20 MAY 2014

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Swift
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Adams
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Deane
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart - Chair
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Whilding

Also in attendance:
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Walley

1.14 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Councillor Hall moved that the positions remain as last year. This was agreed, Chair - Councillor Hart; Vice Chair – Councillor Jones.

2. Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Wood

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
b Other Interests: Councillor Hart anything site specific to Biddulph in the LDF.
Councillor Sheldon Minute 10.3, the enterprise competition.

4. MINUTES

It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 15 April 2014.

5. BEMERSLEY TIP

The Chief Officer gave an update from the two meetings of the Working Group. Further information had been requested from the author of the original report and an online petition was up and running. Councillor Jackson reported that he had attended a meeting at the County Council, where the Leader would not give a commitment that the closure proposal would not rear its head again. At the same meeting, the County Council Chairman had handed in a petition. Councillor Gibson asked if the District Council Portfolio Holder for the Environment had been contacted

about the impact a possible closure would have on the Rapid Response Team, and was assured that this was so. Councillor Hart noted that the working group had pulled the report apart, and would meet again when more information had been received.

6. PCSO's REPORT

PCSO Sherratt was invited to attend the meeting. He reported that in the last month there had only been one Anti Social Behaviour Order, a burglary in Biddulph Moor, a warrant issued in the High Street, a person charged with cultivation of cannabis to the value of £20,000, and an incident in Craigside, with a person charged. PCSO Sherratt was working with the local schools and had taken some students to Vale Park to meet the players. He was also talking with British Cycling about restarting the Proficiency training. PCSO Sherratt would be taking part in a sponsored bike ride at the end of July to raise money for the Dogs Trust. The Chair thanked PCSO Sherratt for attending the meeting.

7. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a Proposal to make a Stopping up Order for a highway at Colliers Way, comprising highway verge, received from the Department for Transport. The Chief Officer noted that OS mapping still referred to Meadows Way as Colliers Way, this would be rectified in due course. Councillors, Jackson, Redfern and Whilding requested copies of the proposal.
- a Notification that nominations for Local Authority Governors may be required for the following schools: Kingsfield First (currently PCSO Peter Johnson); Oxhey First (currently Mr Alan Rogers) and James Bateman Junior High (currently Mrs Jaqueline Shelley).

8. MEETINGS ATTENDED DURING THE MONTH

- a Councillor Rogers had attended a meeting of the SPCA at Stafford and with Councillor Harper a meeting of the Moorlands Assembly at Leek where future development plans were on show. Councillor Rogers noted that Festival brochures were available and encouraged members to help with the distribution
- b Councillor Baddeley had attended a meeting of the Health Select committee in Stafford, there was nothing pertaining to Biddulph.
- c Councillor Davies had attended a meeting of the SMCVS as representative of this Council; discussion had taken place about the possible amalgamation of the groups throughout the county for financial reasons.
- d Councillor Redfern had attended a meeting of the Arts Forum. He reported on possible issues with the stage and lighting in the main hall, to be brought to a future meeting of the Civic Committee.
- e Councillor Lovatt had joined with the Friends of Biddulph Valley Park to sow wildflower seeds on land between Moorlands Road and Kingsfield Road.
- f Councillor Jackson reported on the Biddulph Sports Council Awards Evening which he had attended with Councillors Hawley and Walley. A pleasant evening, Mr Wilson had collected an award on behalf of his son James Wilson (Biddulph born and raised) who had just made his full debut and scored two goals in the Premier League. Councillor Jackson reported that the array of talent in Biddulph was impressive, and there were also a number of dedicated older people who helped to coach and train. Councillor Jackson expressed his thanks to all who were involved, especially the Treasurer - Mr John Salt.

9. LENGSTHMAN WORK

The Lengthsman had been asked to reinstate Footpath 135, which was near to the derelict garden centre. Councillor Redfern reported a serious problem with one regular driver who used the road when school children were about. The Chief Officer noted that the lane was a designated highway, but the footpath was very overgrown.

10. CHIEF OFFICER’S REPORT

1 Defibrillator training

Biddulph Lifeline has booked two training sessions on Wednesday 4th June 3-6 pm and Tuesday 10 June 6-9 pm. The first is in the Council Chamber and the venue for the second is still to be confirmed. Please let Mavis Hancock know if you would like to attend on 513458.

2 Paved ramps in High Street

I received a phone call this morning from the local Highways officer to say that the two smaller High Street ramps have deteriorated again and that they are planning to re-do them with black tarmac, which will withstand the usage. The high number of HGVs and buses using the street has caused this damage – they were re-paved only last year. Moved

Several suggestions were made - make the ramp from proper cobbles cemented in – this was thought to be too costly and not practical; redo as it was originally and ban the buses, this was not thought feasible; replace with tarmac, but in a different colour. All comments to be forwarded to County Councillor Lawson.

3 The Start-Up – competition for new businesses

Information received of an enterprise competition that Stoke-on-Trent City Council in partnership with Youth Enterprise has launched called The Start-Up. The competition is open from now until midnight 13th June 2014 and is for budding entrepreneurs with innovative business idea or for new businesses trading since March 2013. Prizes include a share of £30,000 grant from Stoke-on-Trent City Council. Applications welcomed from the Staffordshire Moorlands, more info at: <http://www.thestart-up.co.uk/>

4 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association

Spring edition of the Newsletter received.

5 Forthcoming meetings

Please note that the meeting cycle has been amended next month – Burial Grounds, Planning and Civic committee meetings will be held on Monday 9th and HR and Finance on Tuesday 10th. There will be a Footpaths’ committee meeting on Tuesday 24th at 6 pm and the Allotments Committee will meet at 7 pm on that evening.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

SignedDate