

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Swift
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Adams
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Deane
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hart
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers: Vice Chair
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Wood

18.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Davies: Chair
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Whilding
Town Crier

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: none were declared

20. MINUTES

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 12 August 2014.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive the verbal report of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 9 September 2014.

It was noted that the calendar for 2015 was to be printed in the next few weeks, and would be sold at the various markets and events in the run up to Christmas; that the A527 boards were to be replaced; that a reprint of the postcards was to go ahead and that a draft design of a new Biddulph leaflet was to be produced.

It was reported that the BBC filming and German TV visit at Biddulph Grange had taken place recently and that the famous Monty Don also coming to film Gardeners World in the next few months. Word was obviously getting around. Councillor Sheldon said that the Biddulph Grange staff were actively promoting the town and had a tasteful sign on exit.

21. LIGHTING SCHEME

The Vice Chair reported that 19 columns had been ordered and that 12 were now completed, apart from painting. Councillor Sheldon added that the contractor had been working on site on Sunday.

22. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The District Council had enquired which five free parking days were required this year. It was decided to request the following dates: Saturday 29 November, Friday 5 December and Saturday 13 and 20 December, plus the Festival launch day. He asked the Press for co-operation to publicise the free parking.

23. WAR MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Chief Officer reported that a local company had cleaned the town memorial with soapy water and a soft brush, but that much of the staining was still there. The cost was £120. Two estimates from professional memorial companies had now been received – a third had been requested several times, but was not expected. The lowest estimate for the town War Memorial was £1,550 + VAT and for the St Lawrence War Memorial it was £1,475 + VAT. Councillor Swift proposed that the lowest quote be accepted, seconded by Councillor Adams. It was moved to accept the lowest estimate on condition that the company could complete the work by Remembrance Sunday.

The Chief Officer also reported that three local architects had been asked for costings to draw up a scheme for the war memorial area. Councillor Sheldon said that she had an appointment to meet the Conservation Officer for the Moorlands/High Peak and was hoping to gain a contribution towards this work and that the owners of the adjacent restaurant had said that they were willing to contribute to paving, as they would like to place tables outside.

A site visit then took place and it was agreed that the railings needed replacing and the grass/flower bed should be removed, with attractive paving laid in the whole area. There would need to be somewhere to place the Remembrance crosses.

The area was over-crowded with various signs/a post box/telecoms cabinet/litter bin and CCTV camera. It was agreed to request re-siting of as many of these as possible. Cllr Hart offered to ask the Post Office to move the post box to the other side of the road, nearer to the Post Office. The District Council and Staffordshire County Council would have to be asked about the other street furniture. Permission to work on the area would be needed from the District Council and it may be necessary to obtain planning permission.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed Date