

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 AUGUST 2014

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; in the absence of a member of the clergy, The Town Crier lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor then opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Swift
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Adams
Councillor Deane
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Tolley
Councillor Walley
Councillor Wood

22.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests had been received.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Hart; the Local Development Framework site specifics. Councillor Rogers, travel expenses
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Hall gave notice that he would be declaring an interest in the Minutes of the Burial Grounds Committee at the General Purposes Committee meeting (as a member of Biddulph Rotary)

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Whilding

25. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15 July 2014.

- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 15 July 2014.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 22 July and 12 August 2014. Councillor Hart had tendered apologies.
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 12 August 2014.

26. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a Mayor's Engagements – the Mayor read out details of his recent engagements:
 - National Memorial Arboretum with Biddulph British Legion and students from the 9 local schools
 - St Lawrence Pre School prize giving
 - Roaches School prize giving
 - Biddulph by the Sea
 - Poynton Civic Service
 - Mayors Charity Event
 - Churches Together café
 - Uttoxeter Civic Service
 - Springbank 103rd Birthday
 - Shugborough Guide International Camp with 1000+ Guides
 - Victoria Centre an exhibition about the Great War followed by a service at Town Hall
 - Methodist Service of Remembrance
 - Candlelit Vigil Service at the Methodist Church
 - Welcomed 10 adults from Fusignano & bade them farewell the following week.
 - Biddulph in Bloom judging day; the Mayor offered congratulation to all involved
- b Any other communications:

The Mayor gave notice of his Civic Dinner which would be held on Friday 24 April 2015. This would also mark the end of this Council's four year term of office. Further details to follow.

27. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

It was noted that Youth Advisors did not meet in August.

28. TOWN COUNCIL PENSION POLICY – COMPULSORY POLICY STATEMENTS

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014, all employers under the Staffordshire Pension Scheme must adopt and publish five areas of discretion. It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Adams that the Council make a Resolution to adopt the draft policy. All were in favour and the Resolution was Carried.

29. OPEN & ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Government made the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 effective from 6th August. The rules had been changed to make councils, including

Parish and Town Councils, and other local government bodies such as Fire and Rescue authorities, more transparent and accountable to their local communities.

The key change was that the Regulations now conferred on the public the right to film and report, using digital and social media, all those meetings of Parish and Town Councils which are open to the public. It was agreed to accept the ruling and to amend Standing Order 1m to reflect the changes. The Chief Officer would check Standing Orders to ensure that there were no further alterations to be made.

30. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

Councillor Wood asked why the Market Organiser's pay was in addition to that of the Events Director. The Chief Officer explained that this role was not under the remit of the Events Director and could be carried out by another individual.

The Chief Officer noted that the payment to Lask Edge Methodist Church would be subject to the ratification of the Minutes of the Burial Ground Committee by the General Purposes Committee which would meet later that evening.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Heads (Congleton) Ltd - Artisan Market advert x2	112.80
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
M Hall – Stall Construction	75.00
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
V Brown – events gazebo (refund of payment)	199.00
W Linaker – market stall construction	144.00
Local World Ltd – ¼ page & online adverts Leek Post & Times	154.81
Viking – stationery & stamps	304.92
SMDC – refund of cash paid into Town Council account in error	863.15
Mr J Hayhurst – lock & keys for Moorland Rd allotment site	36.50
Parish Online – annual subscription to mapping service	336.00
Npower – Christmas lighting, standing charge	34.92
Annodata Ltd – photocopy charges	23.77
D Allcock – Lengthsman work in July/August (inc Orme Rd footpath)	940.00
- To empty skip, TBG	150.00
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit)	1808.73
Salaries	4349.21
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1643.35
K Thacker – travel; pensions training	26.35
Petty Cash	15.13
Cllr W Rogers – travel expenses	23.18
Lask Edge Methodist Church – grant from Burial Grounds Committee	200.00

The meeting closed at 7.22pm

Signed Date.....