

# **MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2014**

## **PRESENT**

The Mayor – Councillor Swift  
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Adams  
Councillor Davies: Chair  
Councillor Deane  
Councillor Gibson  
Councillor Hall  
Councillor Harper  
Councillor Hart  
Councillor Jackson  
Councillor Redfern  
Councillor Rogers: Vice Chair  
Councillor Sheldon MBE  
Councillor Tolley  
Town Crier

## **31.14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:  
Councillor Baddeley  
Councillor Deaville  
Councillor Ellsum  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Lovatt  
Councillor Whilding

## **32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: Minute 34: Councillors Davies, Hart and Sheldon as members; Minute 35: Councillors Hall and Harper as members of Biddulph Rotary.

## **33. MINUTES**

- a It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 14 October 2014.
- b It was **RESOLVED** to receive the verbal report of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 11 November 2014.

## **34. MOORLANDS PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair commented that many members felt that most of the Moorlands Partnership funding went to Leek and that we wished to apply for funding for Biddulph. He listed the projects that were outlined at the last meeting:

- a) The War Memorial area – it was agreed to get together with the District Council Conservation officer prior to firming up three quotes. Councillor Hart and the Chief Officer had met with the area highways officer to discuss street furniture clutter at the memorial. He had felt that much of this could not be moved – the BT box, CCTV camera and illuminated road signs.

Councillor Rogers said that the War Memorial looked good now that cleaning and renovation work had been undertaken. The Chief Officer reported that Biddulph Rotary Club wished to make a contribution towards the cost of refurbishments of War Memorial. The Club would invite the Mayor to a meeting early next year to make the presentations.

- b) Restoration of two kissing gates on the A527 – also the footbridges, a farm gate and fencing replacement. These were heritage items and must not be lost. Councillor Sheldon said that bags of rubbish were fly-tipped in the brook at the location nearest to Fold Lane. The next Moorlands Partnership meeting would be held on 17 March and it was agreed to have this project costed and ready for submission by that date.

Councillor Hart commented that much fencing was lost when our ironwork went for scrap in WWII, only agricultural fencing was saved. It was vital to retain our Heath heritage. Other environmental enhancements should be added to the list ~ for example there are eight wells in Biddulph.

Councillor Tolley asked if members could we have information on qualifying criteria? Councillor Sheldon agreed to ask the Moorlands Partnership officer for a copy of the guidelines.

Councillor Harper asked if we could place a plaque on the site of Biddulph Castle and this was unanimously agreed.

### **35. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UPDATE**

The Chair reported that the road closure was arranged for 12 noon, with the switch on at 6.00pm. Ms Brown was working on the running order; we were short of volunteers to help with stall erection and dismantling so volunteers would be very welcome. We would be losing one of the two main market stall constructors, but may have found a replacement. Councillor Sheldon informed the meeting that the two small trees in the front garden were to be removed prior to the Christmas tree going in.

Councillor Davies wished to put town hall garden as an item on the January agenda.

### **36. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a) The street lights have all had the kits added. It was agreed to ask E.on to remove notices before painting the columns! Also, they had left gaps around the collars which needed sealing.
- b) The Wharf Road steps: the agreements were nearly in place and work would commence after Christmas.
- c) A letter specifying sites was received from the graffiti artist and these were discussed. The Chair suggested the Newpool Road Bridge, underneath and possibly to mark out a panel. Councillor Tolley felt that we should specify it was to be tasteful but allow him to do this as a test area, directly onto the bridge and to publicise that he had been given permission to do this – as Wall Art. Ewan may have ideas of the design he wants to use. Councillor Hart said that this could be refreshed in the future and Councillor Tolley said he could use reverse-graffiti – where clean parts of the wall are a form of art.

Councillor Jackson said that ownership must be looked into – the District Council would know this. The Chair felt that something of a similar type in the bus hub to do with Biddulph would look good. Councillor Deane felt that if the artist did have a design, it could be taken to the local Residents Association.

It was agreed, in principle, to give the artist a trial subject to obtaining the relevant permissions.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed ..... Date .....