

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2014

The Chief Officer introduced The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and invited Rev'd Derek Balsdon to lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor then opened the meeting.

PRESENT

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

60.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Antony Capostagno and Mel Hilton (Youth workers) were invited to address the meeting and talked about Biddulph Young Peoples Place (BYPP) and the Youth and Community Centre. BYPP originally provided a youth café at Kingsfield School and moved to the Youth Centre in 2012, offering a café for young people aged from 12-19. The Centre had offered accredited training, a youth programme for 90-100 young people, unstructured activities, sports including football, media and creative workshops. The aim was to encourage young people to attend in a safe environment, take part in activities and socialise with friends. County Council funding had recently been withdrawn, the Youth Workers were being made redundant and the Centre would be closed.

Antony and Mel had now established the Biddulph Youth and Community Zone Limited (BYCZ) in order to legally lease the building from the County Council and they had applied for a Big Lottery Fund grant, applying to run the Centre for the next five years. The County Council wanted to provide a wider range of community services and would work with them on these also. BYCZ was hoping to make the centre sustainable; a community hub rather than just a youth centre. BYCZ had also spoken to BRIC, The Green Tree House and VISYON (mental health services for young people). VISYON were very keen to get involved and to provide services for young people in Biddulph. A 97-page business plan was submitted to the County Council last week. This had been the only application, so the two were really hopeful. It was their wish to set up a community centre advisers group, for local people, run by local people.

Councillor Wood said that this was absolutely fantastic and was a backlash against the closure. Councillor Wood wished BYCZ all the best and wanted to do all things possible to help in this. The Council would help in any way possible.

Mel thanked Councillor Wood, noting that the biggest problem to overcome would be to build a pool of volunteers; adding that without volunteers the scheme would be too expensive.

Councillor Jackson asked, as they were at stage 1 with the lottery funding now, how many people nationally were turning to the Lottery. He hoped this didn't go against them and asked what the indication had been from the Lottery, and did it link in time-wise with the permission from the County Council? Mel replied that they had received very positive feedback from the Lottery people, who were helping as much as they could to speed up this application to ensure it would fit in with the County Council timescales.

Councillor Jones said that what the County Council had done was disgraceful and what the group was doing was amazing. He reminded them that the Town Council had a funding pot. Councillor Hall congratulated the two for the work they had been doing. They were optimistic and positive and he asked that they kept this Council informed of their progress.

Councillor Rogers thought it was tragic to even talk of the Centre closing. He added that people did not understand what was in the building, the sports hall was excellent and should be in daily use. Antony responded that they were looking to work with local schools and other agencies. He mentioned that this had been his last day working for the County Council, as he had been made redundant.

Councillor Tolley declared an interest as a director of the Biddulph Youth & Community Zone and added that the organisation was up and running and delivering services. He thanked them both for getting the project going forwards, adding that they had taken it by the scruff of the neck. Councillor Hart pointed out that the way forwards was as a multi-use building and the two were doing a very good thing. Councillor Sheldon wished them every success and asked if the small meeting rooms could be used by community groups? Antony replied that they would hold about 15 people each.

Mel added that they were also applying for funding for a Centre Manager to make sure the building was utilised fully and to drive the project forwards. Your Moorlands had also become a partner and would be hoping to provide services from the Centre. The Big Lottery funders were being very supportive, although they were now awaiting outcome of stage 1 application, they had been told what was in stage 2 so they could start to prepare. Gail Edwards of the County Council was asking SCC members to bear with them and their tight schedule.

The Mayor also wished the group well for future and thanked them for bringing the information to members.

- b PCSO Sherratt reported, as follows:
 - i Ross Podyma of Sporting Communities would be working with young people in the town over the next few months;
 - ii £20k of cannabis had been seized in house raids recently;
 - iii work was continuing with 'borderline' pupils, to hopefully steer them away from anti-social behaviour;
 - iv there was to be a Moorlands Engagement Day with Police & Crime Commissioner on 5th February; please pass any questions forwards;
 - v there had been some thefts from cars during the month

Councillor Wood mentioned irresponsible parking near to schools – he felt it worked to put reports in of fixed penalties for this in the local press. PCSO Sherratt noted that traffic wardens had been targeting this problem.

- c Mr Alan Holdsworth was invited to address the meeting regarding the bus service. He gave an update on his 99 bus campaign and noted that Bakerbus had been taken over by D&G Bus Company. Mr Holdsworth had contacted D&G to arrange a meeting, with no response to date. He had also contacted County Councillor Mark Deaville (Cabinet Support Member for Highways & Transport) and would be meeting with him in the near future. He had asked for the figures for the subsidies paid to Bakerbus under the Freedom of Information Act and had also arranged for a preliminary meeting with Karen Bradley MP. Mr Holdsworth would report back to Council in February.

Councillor Baddeley mentioned that the service which used to go to Washington Close once a day had been withdrawn. There had been a problem with the reversing of the bus and D&G had been very helpful, but the service would not be reinstated until the summer.

Councillor Hart concluded that it would be a fresh start with D&G and hoped that they would be more willing to discuss the services with us. He thought that we should also look at the connection in Congleton and communicate with that company to see if they would be willing to make changes.

Councillor Hall proposed that this Council write to D& G to welcome them to Biddulph and to offer our assistance. This was seconded by Councillor Hart and all were in favour.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Tolley in Minute 60.14, as a director of the BYCZ.

62. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Deaville
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Gibson
Councillor Harper
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Whilding
Town Crier – Mr J Robinson

63. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 December 2014.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 16 December 2014.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 January 2015.
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 12 January 2015
- e It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 13 January 2015
- f It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 13 January 2015 and to approve the Precept request of £236,280.00

64. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor read out details of his recent engagements over the last month. On 7 February 2015 he would be holding a charity concert at the Methodist Chapel - the music would be performed by Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra, who were performing superbly well at the moment and always provided an excellent night's entertainment. The Mayor asked for the support of fellow Councillors for this, his penultimate charity event. He was backed by Councillor Jones.

65. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

Councillor Deane reported on a gratifying, pleasing meeting. Eight representatives of our local schools had attended. Ross Podyma of Sporting Communities came to talk to the young people and eloquent debate followed. Suggestions were put forwards on how to bring young people and the older generations together.

Councillor Sheldon added that it had been an exciting meeting; the young people were really interested, and had come up with excellent ideas. Sporting Communities set up informal sporting events wherever young people congregated. The Council would have some really good links through Ross. Thought should be given to encouraging the advisors to put a report together each month. It was noted that on 17 March 2015, PCC Matthew Ellis would be attending to speak to the Advisors.

66. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

a) The following accounts were pre-paid:

AJB Reprographics Ltd – A527 correx boards	190.80
Leek Signs – A3 correx signs for Artisan Market	76.80

b) The following accounts were received for payment:

Market cash float	75.00
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Salaries	4,511.01
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,713.46
Petty Cash	23.34
Shaw & Sons – stationery (receipt books)	118.08
Kent County Council – quarterly copier charge Jan-Apr	5,862.65
SMDC – lease of room 8	175.00
SMDC – lease of land at Moorland Rd	90.00
Protech Electrical Ltd – 3/3 costs, Christmas lighting	5,172.28
Moorside Memorials – relocation of memorial (Burial Ground Minute 27.14a)	80.00
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association subscription	15.00
Zurich Insurance – policy renewal for Feb 2015-16	1,278.14
D Allcock – to empty skip at burial ground - 150.00	
Lengthsman work - 100.00	
Remove Town Christmas Tree - 25.00	
Work at burial ground - 20.00	295.00
Reece Safety Products Ltd - 2 grit bins, 10 bags rock salt	332.40
HM Revenue & Customs (<i>to be paid by direct debit 6/2/15</i>)	1,926.52
Go Daddy – 2 yr renewal of domain name <i>paid by credit card</i>)	13.98

- c) It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Adams to approve the Accounts to 31 December 2014 and to approve the Precept request of £236,280 (two hundred and thirty-six thousand, two hundred and eighty pounds only). A vote was taken and the motion was Carried.**

- d) It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Adams to confirm the appointment of Ms Elizabeth Thompson as Independent Internal Auditor to the Town Council for the current financial year. A vote was taken and the motion was Carried.**

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed Date.....