

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2015

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Wood

1.15 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Chief Officer called for nominations for Chair of the Civic Committee. Councillor Hart nominated Councillor Davies and Councillor Baddeley seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Councillor Davies was elected as Chair.

The Chief Officer called for nominations for Deputy Chair. Councillor Hart nominated Councillor Rogers and this was seconded by Councillor Lawson. There were no other nominations and Councillor Rogers was elected as Vice Chair.

Councillor Rogers took the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jones
Councillor Whilding

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared
- b Other Interests: Councillor Sheldon as Chairman of Biddulph in Bloom; Councillors Hart, Lawson and Sheldon as members of Moorlands Partnership Board.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 14 April 2015.

5. PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEAR

A request was made for projects for the coming year to be put forwards at the next meeting.

Councillor Sheldon asked for updates on existing projects:

- a The Kissing Gates ~ a Rights of Way grant had been applied for from the County Council, but the outcome was still awaited.

- b Upgrading the War Memorial area ~ the architect was almost ready to present the concept plan to the committee. This would be at the next meeting.
- c Upgrading of the lighting columns ~ a few more had been undercoated in northern High Street, but progress was still painfully slow.
- d Uplighters for the town hall trees ~ the District Council had asked the Town Council to wait until a decision had been made on the frontage, as this could involve groundwork. It was sensible for the work to be done at this time but no news on changes to the town hall had been received to date.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

All members had a responsibility to report risks as noticed. All members agree that they assess risks during the audit process and the internal monitoring councillor felt that each committee should review its own risk assessment from time to time. This was agreed and the forms would be updated at the next meeting.

Councillor Wood had reported a serious highway defect to the County Council recently and asked how councillors stood if an accident happened. The Chief Officer replied that as this was not a Town Council statutory duty this Council and its members could not be held liable, but that all members had a responsibility to report dangers if noticed as part of their civic duty.

Councillors Jackson and Lawson would both report the highway fault as a 24-hour emergency repair.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a Councillor Davies had asked Councillor Rogers to bring up the embarrassing delay with the lighting column project. It was agreed to write a strong letter of complaint to the County Council asking when the painting would be complete, proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Jackson. Councillor Jackson added that he would highlight this matter at the forthcoming Town Deal meeting.

Councillor Sheldon was concerned that the columns would start to rust as they had no paint on them. Councillor Lawson said that he would also make enquiries of County officers.

- b The Vice Chair asked that the signwriter be asked to come in to add names to the history boards. This was agreed.
- c Councillor Lawson announced that the Community Highways team would be in the north and west of the town in three weeks' time. Councillor Jackson added that they would be in his wards from 21 July. The Chief Officer was asked to report this to full Council.
- d Councillor Salt announced that there was to be a schoolchildren's evacuee day on 8 July in the Town Hall – a 1940's lunch. All Councillors would be welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed Date