

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2015

The Town Crier introduced The Town Mayor and Chief Officer. He then invited Father Julian Green to lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Walley

36.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Mr Adrian Lawton was invited to address the meeting. He read from notes which had been circulated about the buses in and around the town. Mr Lawton gave examples in the media which he felt had not been helpful. He thought that the role of the Transport Co-ordinator should be expanded to encompass awareness, liaison and communication, and involvement. It was moved to add this to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the GP committee. Mr Lawton asked if the recently appointed transport co-ordinator could be invited to join the town centre South View steering group. This was agreed.
- b PCSO's Report:
PCSO Sherratt had left notes which the Chief Officer read from: concerns had been raised about the large gatherings of young people in the town centre; Section 35 Community Protection Notices (CPN) were proving quite effective. The Roaches School had invited the Mayor and Councillors to have a look round the school on Monday 14 December 2015 from 11.00 am. PCSO Sherratt had attended an awards event where he had talked with the Chief Constable about the Council Youth Advisor meetings; she had expressed an interest in attending a future meeting.

The Mayor then offered congratulations to Councillor Sheldon and Biddulph in Bloom for gaining another superb National Award – Silver Gilt in the large town category and a Community Champions award for Helen and Alan Roberts.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations Councillor Rogers – Minute 42 - his travel expenses and market reimbursement.
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon in anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom.

38. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Nicosia

39. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15 September 2015.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 15 September 2015.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 30 September 2015.
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2015.
- e It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2015. It was noted that Councillor Hawley, though not on the committee, had attended the meeting

40. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had received a letter from Buckingham Palace thanking her for the letter of congratulations on Her Majesty becoming the longest reigning monarch in the United Kingdom.

The Mayor had received a letter from Mr Frank Harris about problems encountered when booking the Town Hall, the letter had been tabled.

The Mayor had quite a busy month and listed the events attended.

41. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

The Chief Officer reported on a good turnout – six Youth Advisors had attended, they were all not afraid to speak and entered into intelligent conversation.

Also in attendance were Councillors Baddeley and Harper, Kate, Jean, the Town Crier, PCSO Sherratt and Rachel Butcher - Programme Manager of Staffordshire Safety Net CIC. Visitors from Leek Town - Councillor Povey and the Leek Town Clerk - were on a fact finding outing and were considering setting up a similar group in Leek.

Items discussed included:

- The Section 35 Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- Halls Road Playing Fields, where the lack of lighting and dangerous spots were identified; the introduction of CCTV was requested.
- Biddulph Youth and Community Zone – the early closing times was queried.
- A Neighbourhood Planning session to be held at Biddulph High School.
- The prospective solar farm – one of the Advisors was very knowledgeable. One quoted 'Saving the environment by spoiling it'. Advisors felt that all new homes should have solar panels installed.

Rachel Butcher spoke to the group about her work in safeguarding and distributed contact information.

One of the Advisors expressed interest in attending a Council meeting

Councillor Hart asked if the comments about the Halls Road playing fields could be forwarded to Tony Wheat, SMDC Sports and Leisure Manager. This was agreed.

42. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market float, inc stall construction	160.95
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – market/car boot advert	28.08
Luke Ellis, Churnet Valley Garden Furniture – wooden barriers	220.00
W Rogers – cable ties & patio set (market café)	17.00
Protech Electrical Ltd – Rock End phone box photo cell	210.00
Protech Electrical Ltd – Christmas lighting annual storage	1,545.60
Protech Electrical Ltd – bracket testing	2,088.00
Protech Electrical Ltd – inspection, testing, repair of lights	1,015.32
E.on Energy Solutions Ltd – annual lighting invoice	2,957.02
Heads (Congleton) Ltd, staff vacancy	121.44
SLCC Enterprises Ltd, staff vacancy	108.00
SMDC – lease of land at Moorland Road (allotment site)	90.00
SMDC – lease of room 8 (quarterly charge)	175.00
Kent County Council – copier rental (quarterly charge)	582.65
Moorside Memorials – exhumation costs	75.00
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit 6/11/15)	1,846.76
Salaries	4,455.21
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,743.64
Petty cash	20.22
Severn Trent Water – Moorland Rd allotment site	57.21
D Lovatt – trees/hedges at burial grounds/churchyard	1,450.00
D Allcock – Lengthsman work Sept-Oct £320	
Relocating spoil store £150	470.00
Smith of Derby – St Lawrence’s public clock 3 year contract renewal	741.60
Leek Signs – new market banners	156.00
Councillor W Rogers – travel expenses	9.00

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Signed Date.....