

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance:
Councillor D Hawley
Mrs S Haydon

48.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Councillor Hart
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Whilding

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: none were declared.
- b Other Interests: Councillor Sheldon in any item relating to Biddulph in Bloom, as Chair.

50. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 8 December 2015.

Regarding Minute 23.15, Tourism Committee: Councillor Rogers would ask the Borders Independent if they were still able to assist with the production of the Biddulph Guide as Mr Angus was no longer working there.

51. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TENDER

The current contract has now expired and would need to be re-advertised for the next three year term. It was agreed that the tender process would be instigated. Councillor Jones noted that Protech had been first class, and asked fellow Councillors to bear that in mind.

52. QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BEACON

The District Council and National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had invited Town Councils to light beacons to celebrate HM Queen's 90th birthday on 21 April 2016. At a previous event issues had been that people could not see the beacon and could not get close to it. Councillor Jones proposed having a proper bonfire somewhere that people could go to and celebrate. Councillor Salt had been to one at Mow Cop, which people could get round and was very successful. Councillor Wood concurred and suggested the empty ground adjacent to Hollinshead's may be suitable. Councillor Jones suggested Biddulph Moor Village Hall, which had public facilities; the committee could sell hot dogs/burgers etc to for the village hall funds. The Chair thought it should be near to a centre of community facilities and that this was a good idea. Councillor Hawley queried having fireworks. It was Moved to take this forwards and to approach Biddulph Moor Village Hall management committee.

Councillor Sheldon had heard that there would be a National Clean-Up Day prior to this event and asked if this Council should join in with this. It was Moved to look into it. Councillor Wood asked if the District Council could help. This would be added to the next agenda. Resident and Youth groups could be invited to participate. Councillor Salt added that the Royal British Legion may be organising a children's celebration separately and would be approaching the Town Council for assistance. The Chair noted that Rev'd Raaff; Curate at St Lawrence's was considering holding a special service.

53. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a Market accounts for last 3 years were presented. The Chair spoke of a potential loss for the coming year and asked if the potential benefit warranted the potential loss. Councillor Wood felt that it should continue; it was still in the embryo stage and was getting more popular; it was well worth doing. Councillor Salt asked if the stall holders were local, adding that they could suffer if the market closed. Councillor Salt felt that it may be pertinent to carry out a survey to check if it was pulling people in. Councillor Baddeley wondered if it could be opened up as a general market. Councillor Davies noted that we were fairly liberal about who we allowed and noted that we had started car boot sale to run alongside. Councillor Jones asked if we did need to carry on subsidising and were we still relying on volunteers? This was a hidden cost, the bigger the market got, the more economically viable it would become.

Councillor Sheldon thought that it would be interesting to see how many customers there were and felt that the Town Hall should be part of it. The Methodist Church held a market on Friday which was in competition. Councillor Jackson expected it be a financial success and asked if we advertised at Biddulph Grange. Councillor Davies responded that we did put a sign there. Councillor Jackson thought we should keep a track of figures and that we could handle a £1500 – £1700 loss for the good of the town. He proposed giving it another 12 months. Councillor Hall added that we often

gave other organisations more in grants than we had put into this. He thought it had done very well. Noting that we had had some terrible weather; it was not draining us and we should try to improve it and that we should carry out a survey. Councillor McGuinness asked if it was possible to re-flag the front of the Town Hall for a permanent market. Councillor Davies noted that the Town Hall work would start at Easter and we had had spoken about improvements to the frontage; it was not for consideration at this time and that we were not stuck for space at present.

Councillor Salt thought that the market should run until later in the day, as it did not give people who worked time to visit. Councillor Jones thought that it was not be an unreasonable sum to spend and that we need to grow the market. Councillor Swift noted that other markets struggled and that we should not give up. Councillor Davies suggested asking Cheshire East if we could change the day.

- b Station Road project – Councillor Lawson had asked County Council Officers to look at this – it had to be done through the Division Programme.
- c The Bowling Club had asked if the Town Council logo could be incorporated into their letterhead to give them an identity. It was agreed that there would be no objection to using the badge without the words 'Town Council'.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed Date