

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2016

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Court
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance:
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Harper

83.15. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Rushton

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Hart declared an interest in any matters concerning residential site specifics. Councillor Sheldon declared in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom.
- b Other Disclosable Interests.

85. MINUTES

It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 15 December 2015.

86. BEMERSLEY HWRC

As instructed, the Chief Officer had written to Councillor Winnington with copies to Cllr Gill Heath and Officer Elaine Rock; inviting Councillor Winnington to attend a future meeting of this committee. A brief reply had been received noting that he was already committed on the dates offered.

Councillor Wood felt that Councillor Winnington was treating this Council with contempt and proposed that Councillor Winnington be asked for two dates when he would be available when a special meeting would be convened, adding that could we

ask what date he was available and we would convene a special meeting, we were all unified to protect the recycling centre.

Councillor Harper fully supported Councillor Wood, adding that a deputation could go to Stafford.

Councillor Jones fully supported the motion, but felt that Councillor Winnington should come to Biddulph, adding that this was too important to be pushed aside.

Councillor Jackson fully endorsed Councillor Wood adding that a location map should be enclosed with the invitation. Also to invite Councillor Gill Heath to accompany him.

Councillor Jackson noted that the County Council was reviewing the budget and the decision on the facility would be made. We needed to see Councillor Winnington before the end of March 2016.

All were in favour of the invitation being sent.

A meeting of the working group would be convened late January or early February 2016.

87. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Re Town Centre Working Group

It was moved to invite County Councillor Mark Deaville with Ms Raftery to come to the town for a day to look at a number of issues including the crossings. The Chief Officer would write and invite them. Councillor Wood asked that the invitation was extended to Ward Councillors.

The Mayor noted that posts at the crossing at Brindley Ford were illuminated; Councillor Jackson was trying to have illuminated posts installed at a crossing at Brown Edge. Councillor Sheldon had seen posts in Shropshire with a halo of lights round the top.

Councillor Lawson noted that the sticking point at Congleton Road appeared to be the proprietor of the Biddulph Arms.

88. MEETINGS ATTENDED DURING THE MONTH

Reports from members attending meetings of outside bodies where important information relating to Biddulph has been received.

- a Councillors Salt and Nicosia had attended a meeting of the High School, School Council, introducing themselves and speaking on a variety of items.
- b Councillor Harper with Councillors Lovatt and Walley had attended a Patient Participation meeting where they were told that the doctor who would be leaving soon was to be replaced.

89. LENGTHSMAN

To receive reports of highway issues suitable for the Lengthsman scheme. One were received.

90. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Officer gave a verbal report including a update on the Springfield Road Allotment site.

Councillor Sheldon had received information about the proposed allotment site, which was caught in planning issues, there were some issues which would need to be resolved. It was proposed to hold a meeting of the Allotment Committee on Wednesday 3 February 2016, afternoon or early evening. Afternoon was Agreed.

Councillor Sheldon reported that the letter had been prepared for distribution around the Shepherd Street site.

Councillor Sheldon reported that the long length of hedge at the Moorland Road allotment site had become overgrown and needed laying; this was not a job that the Lengthsman could do. It was agreed to request that the District Council attended to the hedge – which was theirs) as soon as possible. Biddulph in Bloom was reluctant to take on the large job, but might if that was the only option.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed Date