

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor invited Pastor Amy Wyatt to lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

71.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Mr Jackson was invited to address the meeting. He spoke about problems on the Church Road Playing Fields football pitch, with dog fouling and broken glass. He mentioned that a local resident had been seen drinking from bottles and throwing them onto the fields. The football teams had to clear the pitch before every game. Mr Jackson asked for advice on further action. Councillor Salt thanked Mr Jackson for attending and hoped that one result would be that the problem would be reported in the local press. Councillor Jones felt that it was two separate problems and advised that SMDC is contacted about the dog fouling and Staffordshire Police about the anti-social behaviour. Councillor Hart concurred adding that if the bottle thrower was a Moorlands Housing tenant that avenue could be explored. Councillor Jackson – no relation – was pushing for a change in the rules that would mean dog walkers must carry poop bags or face prosecution. Councillor Hall proposed that the information about dog fouling is passed to SMDC as the owner and lessee of the land. Councillor Sheldon advised that a diary of evidence was compiled with photographs if possible which would support a prosecution. Councillor Rogers noted that a referee was responsible for both the players and spectators and should ensure that litter is not left after a match.
- b Ms Evans to speak on parking at Tunstall Road, deferred
- c PCSO's report: PCSO Sherratt was unable to attend, but had left some Staffordshire Smart Alert cards to be circulated. These had also been given to the Youth Advisors that afternoon.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations.

Councillor Sheldon declared interest in anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Hart declared an interest in any matters concerning site specifics to do with the Local Plan. Councillor Rogers declared an interest in Minute 77; travel expenses.

b Other Disclosable Interests: none were declared.

73. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Court

Councillor Wood

Town Crier

and for late arrival by Councillor Lovatt.

74. MINUTES

a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 February 2016.

b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 16 February 2016.

c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 March 2016.

d It was **Resolved** to Receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 8 March 2016. Councillor Davies requested an unresolved confidential item to follow the General Purposes Committee. Agreed.

75. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave an update of her recent engagements, then announced that the Chronicle Reporter Alex McIntyre would be leaving for a job in London. The Mayor presented Alex with a bag of goodies on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Redfern thanked the Mayor and Town Council and all individual Councillors who had sent condolences.

76. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

The Chief Officer reported on a lively meeting - excellent and thought provoking as always. Dom gave more information on his survey. Parking concerns were expressed, especially outside Woodhouse School in the afternoon. Difficulties with buses to Biddulph Moor were also mentioned; this sometimes resulted in siblings being separated and travelling apart.

Advisors were asked to think of questions for the Chief Constable, who would be attending the following month.

77. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

V Brown - Events Direct	743.33
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
A Birchall, ADB Garden Care – 1st payment of grounds contract	5,250.00
SMDC – Town Burial Ground rates	305.99
SLCC – financial management training course (x2)	228.00
Viking – stationery/postage	327.30

Petty cash	14.62
Salaries	4,289.50
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,675.32
Biddulph in Bloom – 4 th grant payment	6,000.00
Market float – stall construction for 1 st April	75.00
Councillor W Rogers – travel expenses	25.20
D Allcock – Lengthsman work, Feb/March	260.00
Tree Heritage Ltd – tree surgery to decayed lime at churchyard	180.00
Petty cash supplementary	10.55
Martin & Co – garage rent, 1 year extension (<i>due 1 April</i>)	2,080.00
CommuniCorp – annual subscription, Local Councils Review (due 1 April)	75.00
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit 5/4/16)	1,744.23

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – re Minute 74 (d)

It was Resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, ie estimate prices, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

Signed Date.....

