

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2018

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer, then invited Father Julian Green to lead a time of prayer. The Mayor then opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor McGuinness
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Davies
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

12.18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting to adjourn for up to 20 minutes (Standing Order 1d-f) to allow for public participation. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Mayor.

Members of the public wishing to raise issues which are not on the Agenda should notify the Chief Officer five working days before the meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.

Lex Ward was invited to address the meeting to talk about her photography project, 'normalisation of breastfeeding in public'.

Ms Ward had a Facebook page where pictures which she had taken of women breastfeeding were posted to show that this was a normal practice. Ms Ward felt that it would be beneficial to have posters in prominent places to promote breast feeding. The initial cost to produce the posters would be £150

Councillor Harper thanked Ms Ward adding that £150 was 'small fry'; breastfeeding was the most natural thing. He wished Ms Ward all the success and recommended that this Council support the initiative.

Councillor Salt also supported the project. She noted that in the Staffordshire Moorlands the rate of breastfeeding was lower than the national average and in Biddulph East the rate was half the national average. This would be a great project, making future human beings healthier.

Councillor Jackson noted that there are certain pressures on Mums, but with a good support network, breastfeeding was best and far superior to formula milk.

Ms Ward noted that she had received a lot of support in Biddulph when feeding her first child, but not as much with her second and third; she wanted to empower women to continue as long as they could.

Councillor Jackson wondered if there was still support at the Children's Centre and seconded Councillor Harper's proposal to support the production of posters, up to £150. All agreed.

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Hawley
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Wood

County Councillor Flunder

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon any matters appertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillors Jackson and Walley are members of Friends of Biddulph Valley Park. Councillor Jones 'anything with Biddulph Moor' in the name and Biddulph Grange Country Park Friends. Councillors Harper and Salt as per the Finance minutes. Councillor Hart- Biddulph Grange Country Park Friends. Councillor Rogers as Treasurer of Biddulph Festival.

15. MINUTES

- a) It was moved to approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 15 May 2015.
- b) It was moved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15 May 2018.
- c) It was moved to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 May 2018. Councillor Davies did not attend the meeting
- d) It was moved to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15 May 2015
- e) It was moved to sign the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 25 May 2018. Councillor Hall proposed that this minute be included, seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed
- f) It was moved to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11 June 2018
- g) It was moved to receive the minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 11 June 2018
- h) It was moved to approve and sign the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 12 June 2018. Councillor Harper noted that a fellow Councillor would like to speak on this matter. The chief Officer reminded members that this part of the meeting was to approve the accuracy of the minutes, any matters arising from the minutes should be taken back to the next meeting of that committee.
- i) It was moved to approve and sign the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 12 June 2018.

16. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he had only been invited to two events so far. The Guides and the Biddulph Moor Well Dressing, which had been a fabulous event. He congratulated the group for the work done; the event had been well attended, and included Maypole and Morris dancing.

The Mayor offered congratulations to Mr James Bourne who is the Biddulph-based winner of the Volunteer Awards; he is 'volunteer of the year'.

The Mayor noted that this week, from Monday to Thursday, Woodhouse Academy Year 7 students had been visiting the Council Chamber during the morning to find out more about the role of a Councillor and the Town Crier; it was proving to be a very worthwhile exercise.

Councillor Jones noted that, in his role as Chairman of the District Council, he had presented the award to James Bourne, a round of applause followed this announcement. Councillor Jones suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Bourne noting how proud this Council was. All agreed.

17. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR JONES - TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO FURTHER CONSIDER BUS PROVISION IN THE TOWN

Councillor Jones reported that he had attended a meeting in Stafford with Councillors Flunder and Lawson, Officer Clive Thompson and his deputies. It had been agreed that the sum of money required to run the 93 bus service would be split between the County and Town Council on a 70/30 basis.

A delay of thirteen weeks would be incurred as a new specification had to be tendered; the amount exceeded the procurement cap. In the interim a temporary service would be run, the tender for this 4 month service would fall within the limitations. It was hoped that the temporary bus service would begin running by mid-July.

Councillor Jones proposed that a working group is formed to work out a sustainable solution for a funded public service. He proposed that a Working Group would comprise County Councillors Deaville, Flunder and Lawson; the Town Council Transport Coordinator Councillor McGuinness, and four others.

There were a series of nominations and it was agreed that the Working Group would consist of Councillor Hall, Councillor Jones, Councillor Jackson, or Councillor Lovatt if she would prefer to stay involved and Councillor Redfern.

The four were agreed, Councillor Jones felt this was a good spread of representation.

18. TO APPROVE A GIFT FOR DAVE DAVIES, RETIRING AFTER 38 YEARS SERVICE AT BIDDULPH FIRE STATION

The Chief Officer suggested that an engraved tankard would be a suitable gift, this was proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Jones. The gift would be presented to Mr Davies at a Town Council meeting.

19. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE: TO CARRY OUT A HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT OF OFFICE SPACE WITHIN THE TOWN HALL

Councillor Salt reported that the audit was essential and should be carried out as soon as possible. This Town Council should be moving forward with decent office space for its staff. Councillor Harper urged District Councillors to make mention of the situation at Leek and to act on behalf of the Town Council to move quickly.

Councillor Hall noted that this Council was in the process of getting back the room which had been used by the Police as a locker and shower room; it had to be returned in a fit state. The District Council was waiting for the Police procurement to move forward.

20. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts were received for payment:

Expenditure below £500

Market imprest	180.00
Stall construction and dismantling	
Mayor's Charity Account	70.00
Reimburse BACS payment made by SMDC for Chairman's tickets to Ball	
Knypersley First School PTFA	25.00
Re-issue of cheque 6267	
Contribution to lantern parade materials	
Re-issue of cheque 6268	25.00
Contribution to lantern parade materials	
E Thompson	152.00
Internal audit 2017/18	
RGS	162.00
Lengthsman work	
ASH waste services	219.42
Emptying 4 x bins at Town Burial Ground	
Robert Shaw	192.00
Collection and last time emptying	
Large skip at Town Burial Ground	
Waterplus	36.03
Water supply to Town Burial Ground	
February to April 2018	
Water supply to Woodhouse Burial Ground	13.03
February to April 2018	
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd	20.10
Emptying of bin at woodhouse burial ground	
Underpayment invoice 677719	3.35
Brian Carter	40.00

Un/lock Woodhouse Burial Ground gates	
Vast Services 1920	300.00
Contribution to Biddulph Valley Way leaflet	

Credit card payments

Filmbank media	150.00
Initial Licence fee	
Facebook	7.00
Boost post re processing NP questionnaire	

b) Supplementary accounts

Expenditure above £500

Ironage Designs	754.45
Extend fencing at A527	
As agreed at minute	
Salaries	4875.57
HMRC to be paid 1 June 2018	1719.64
Staffs Pension Fund	2071.29

Expenditure below £500

S Haydon	18.00
Travel to Buxton to collect audit	
J Hancock	9.36
Travel to place and remove market boards	
R Standell	464.00
Lengthsman work April and May	
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd	20.10
For waste skip at Woodhouse Burial Ground	
Fortnightly collection	
Petty cash	47.00
Petty cash	10.00
Increase as agreed at Finance Committee Minute 27	
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	480.00
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	
Registration for 11 Town Councillors	
and the Town Council Office	
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	2088.00
Omega accounting system	
Set up and installation	
Training and expenses	
Annual support	

Staffordshire North and Stoke on Trent Citizens Advice	25000.00
Biddulph in Bloom (to be paid in four equal instalments of £6250)	25000.00
Biddulph Festival	5000.00
Biddulph U3A	1000.00
Support Staffordshire	1000.00
Biddulph Moor Community 1 st Responders	500.00
Biddulph Lifeline	1000.00
Biddulph Twinning Association	500.00
Biddulph Youth and Community Zone	1000.00
Biddulph Moor Community Association	500.00
Biddulph Moor Evergreen Club	250.00
Brown Lees and District Community Association	500.00
Biddulph Ladies Afternoon Club	0.00
Biddulph Grange Country Park Friends	1000.00
Biddulph Greenfingers	600.00
Friends of Biddulph Valley Park	1000.00
Biddulph and District Youth Orchestra	1000.00
Biddulph Ukulele Group	300.00
2151 (Biddulph) Squadron Air Cadets	1000.00
Knypersley Cricket Club	500.00
Knypersley Bowling	500.00
BBRC - Biddulph Bowling and Recreational Club	500.00
Aglow International	300.00
1 st Biddulph Moor Rainbows	350.00
1 st Bradley Green (Biddulph) Brownies	250.00
Biddulph Trefoil Guild	300.00
1 st Biddulph Moor (Saracen) Scout Group	750.00

c) End of year accounts and Annual Return

- i) The Bank Reconciliation, Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet were received.
- ii) Section 1 of the Annual Return – the Annual Governance Statement was completed, the assertions had been read aloud by the Mayor.
- iii) Section 2 of the Annual Return was approved and signed

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed Date