

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

The Officer introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer. The Mayor invited Rev'd Darren Fraser to lead a time of prayer.

The Mayor opened the meeting

### **PRESENT**

The Mayor - Councillor Davies  
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Jones  
Councillor Adams  
Councillor Baddeley  
Councillor Barlow  
Councillor Brady  
Councillor Garvey  
Councillor Hall  
Councillor Harper  
Councillor Hart  
Councillor Hawley  
Councillor Jackson  
Councillor McLoughlin  
Councillor Perkin  
Councillor Rogers  
Councillor Rushton  
Councillor Salt  
Councillor Sheldon  
Councillor Yates

Also, in attendance County Councillor Flunder

### **42.19 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.*

#### **a) Standing item (for discussion as necessary)- Policing in Biddulph**

PCSO Peake reported that anti-social behaviour activity had decreased. Thefts from motor vehicles had increased, especially in the Pennine Way area from unlocked cars. She asked Members to warn motorists about leaving cars unattended when defrosting.

#### **b) Standing item- County Council issues**

County Councillor Flunder apologised for not attending the Remembrance Parade, he was otherwise engaged with District Council duties.

Councillor Flunder thanked all those who had helped with the purple lights display for 'Purple for Polio' day, when the Town Hall had been lit up with purple lights. Councillor Flunder noted that County and District meetings had been moved or cancelled due to the forthcoming General Election, so he did not have further updates in relation to ongoing projects.

#### **43. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Redfern  
Councillor Smith  
Councillor Swift

#### **44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Hart Local Plan site specifics residential in Biddulph. Councillor Flunder in the Christmas Lights event.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Minute 14b - Councillor Jones is a member of the Royal British Legion. Minute 48 - Councillor Hart had helped the National Trust with its firework display.

#### **45. MINUTES**

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 8 October 2019 were **approved and signed**.
- b) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 8 October 2019 were **received**.
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15 October 2019 were **received**.
- d) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 15 October 2019 were **received**. Councillor Hawley had been in attendance

#### **46. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor Davies reported that Paul Thacker, the husband of the former Chief Officer Mrs Kate Thacker had died. A card of condolence was circulated, the funeral would take place at Macclesfield Crematorium, 10.00 am on Monday 25 November 2019.

The Mayor noted that Councillor Redfern had been unwell recently; a Get Well card for him was also circulating.

The Mayor reported that Biddulph in Bloom had been awarded Gold and had won the Large Town category in the National Britain in Bloom competition. Councillor Hall noted that Hilda had surpassed herself; he stressed the importance of the people who work for our town as volunteers, this had impressed the judges when they visited the town. Councillor Hall asked Councillor Sheldon to pass on thanks to the 'Bloomers'. A round of applause followed. Councillor Sheldon reported that the Town Council had been awarded a certificate at the recent Biddulph in Bloom celebration evening, to express appreciation for the grant aid and assistance given.

The Mayor thanked the large number of Councillors who had helped at the recent swimathon event; it had been a great event and approximately £1000 had been raised for the charities.

Councillor Davies reported that Pudsey Bear and the Rickshaw had come through town, it had been absolutely 'throwing it down' that day. The entourage came from Long Lane past Knypersley School, up Park Lane to Biddulph Moor and on to Flash. It had been great to see them, and he had wished them well on behalf of the town.

The Mayor had been disappointed to read a report in the press in relation to the previous month's Town Council meeting, which had made more of the way things were said than the issues discussed. Councillor Davies said that this was an extremely effective Council and he was very proud to be the Mayor of this Council, which had a record of getting things done. Biddulph Town Council had recently been proactive with the Neighbourhood Plan and the restoration of the 93 bus service, it was compassionate and supported the CAB, The Green Tree House and was a community centred Council; it provided and managed two allotment sites and promoted the town with a Christmas Lights switch-on event, a monthly Artisan Market and supported the annual Biddulph Festival, it also helped to maintain the Town's heritage. This was just some of the good work carried out by this Council. It had a great administration, Councillors were unpaid, and all actively worked for the good of the town. The Council was thoughtful, informed, reasoned and passionate and did work effectively; Biddulph Town Council should be valued, and we should value ourselves.

#### **47. AN OVERVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN LIGHT OF DISTRICT COUNCIL AMENDMENTS**

The Chief Officer gave an overview of the presentation that had been delivered at the District Council. The Chief Officer noted that the Town Council's document mirrored the District Council's Code of Conduct; there was a slight amendment which should be considered at the next review.

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors about the Nolan Principles: Selflessness, Honesty, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness and Leadership. The Chief Officer noted that any complaints in relation to conduct would be considered by the Monitoring Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

The SMDC document now included a strengthened section on respecting others (2.2).

#### **48. ITEM REQUESTED BY CLLR SALT: REDUCING THE IMPACT OF FIREWORKS**

*Fireworks can cause significant injury, problems and fear for other people and animals. The RSPCA supports measures which will help ensure people can enjoy fireworks responsibly while mitigating potentially significant animal welfare problems for pets, horses, farm animals and wildlife.*

*The Town Council should consider the draft motion on the RSPCA document **attached**.*

*This Council resolves:*

- *To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.*
- *To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.*
- *To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.*
- *To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.*

Councillor Salt was concerned about the prolonged length of time that fireworks were used in the locality; she proposed that the RSPCA motion is accepted; this was seconded by Councillor Jackson. Councillor Jones fully supported the motion.

Councillor Sheldon noted that the displays were a major fundraiser for the various groups who would not want them to be held on the same evening.

Councillor Rogers would prefer them all to be held in the week of the 5 November.

Councillor Harper agreed with Councillor Salt; this should be a District Council-led initiative.

Councillor Hall wondered if this would be better discussed at a committee, subject to checking the law for this Council.

Councillor Jackson felt there was nothing contentious in the motion, it was encouraging not cajoling. He added that Sainsbury's had restricted the sale of fireworks.

Councillor Jones proposed an amendment in the first point; change 'require' to 'encourage', if this Council did not have the power.

Councillor Salt was happy to accept the amendment.

Councillor Jackson thought that any organised display would adhere to the points in this motion anyway.

Councillor Hawley thought that the major issues were private displays, they caused the most problems. People should be encouraged to let local residents know they were having a private display so they could plan for animals. Sikhs were also holding displays to celebrate the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of their founder Guru Nanak.

It was agreed to accept the motion with the amendment and to liaise with the District Council; Councillor Sheldon abstained from the vote.

#### **49. TO CONSIDER A VISIT TO FUSIGNANO**

The Chief Officer reported that the Twinning Committee was a very small group and had been discussing how to promote awareness of the relationship with Fusignano. The Chief Officer suggested that Councillors could visit to see what happens there; to understand more about our friends and to see what a fabulous place it was.

The visit could possibly take place in Spring 2020. This would be a self-funded trip, members would pay for themselves. The Chief Officer would identify suitable dates for those interested. Councillor Rogers thought this was a good idea, it was a fabulous place. It was noted that the Mayor was President of the Twinning Committee.

#### **50. ITEM REQUESTED BY CLLR SALT: FEEDBACK ON MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING**

Councillor Salt gave a brief presentation about a two-day mental health first aid course she had recently attended. The Chief Officer had contacted the training provider for information about holding an awareness training course in Biddulph.

Councillor Jones was concerned, he felt it was important to raise awareness, but was concerned about laypeople triaging mental health; a layperson needed compassion, human kindness and the numbers to ring.

Councillor Harper congratulated Councillor Salt, adding that this was not a simple issue. Councillor Harper was concerned about the implications of the Chief Officer completing the course and would like this referring to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee to consider ramifications.

Councillor Davies proposed that this is brought to the next committee meeting and 'ramifications' could be brought up there.

Councillor Hall noted that if the committee had its own budget, the matter did not have to go before the Finance Strategy and Management Committee.

Councillor Salt explained the ALGEE mnemonic device for Mental Health First aid's 5 step Action Plan:

**A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm  
**L**isten nonjudgmentally  
**G**ive reassurance and information  
**E**ncourage appropriate professional help  
**E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies

**51. ITEM REQUESTED BY CLLR SMITH: RE-STARTING THE BIDDULPH BUSINESS CHAMBER**

Item deferred.

**52. ITEM REQUESTED BY CLLR YATES:**

*'Now that we are well on the way to introducing WiFi in the Town Hall, for the sake of accurate reporting and democracy, could we follow the lead of the District Council and introduce webcasting (streaming) of Town Council Meetings?'*

Councillor Yates felt that this Council should aim to broadcast live meetings as the District Council did. This would be an opportunity to demonstrate what the Council did. It would also give absent Councillors the opportunity to listen in remotely.

Councillor Hall thought it was a complex thing and should go to the appropriate committee for further investigation, this was seconded by Councillor Hart.

Councillor Jones welcomed the proposal, but was concerned about the possible cost; someone would have to operate the system, it was a laudable ambition but there would be costs.

Councillor Perkin proposed referring the matter to the IT Working Group, it was a complex issue.

Councillor Yates added that he wanted to 'sow the seed'.

**53. VERBAL UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT OF BIDDULPH TOWN HALL AND VISITOR CENTRE (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)**

The Chief Officer reported on the tabled papers; she had met with Andrew Stokes (Executive Director) and Katy Webster (Head of Asset Management) at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

The Chief Officer noted that she had gone to the meeting 'with a list':

- Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitors Centre - Heads of Terms to be revisited; programme of works to be costed with work hopefully to begin in the Spring.
- Locker Room (previously the Committee Room) – Permission was given to cost the programme of work.
- Town Hall – Biddulph Town Council to take responsibility for bookings, fees and charges from January 2020. Local benchmarking of charges would be carried out. Ms Webster is working on the Heads of Terms for the Town Council management of the Town Hall; discussion of was ongoing regarding renewals and leases and customer services provision
- Develop allotment sites - Moorland Road issues were reiterated, and the Chief Officer noted that the Town Council is still interested in the Shepherd Street site.
- Consideration of the relocation of the fence at the Gillow Heath station site.

The Chief Officer noted that a Working Group could be convened to discuss these items further. A solicitor would also need to be instructed.

Councillor Salt queried whether the District Council was to fund the reinstatement of the 'Locker Room'. Councillor Hall noted that this could not be discussed in a public meeting. The Chief Officer noted that the Town Council had a small budget to make the room fit to use as office space.

Councillor Jackson thought there was a lot of work and many unknowns to be considered before this Council could make decisions. He proposed forming a small Working Group to progress this matter; this was seconded by Councillor Hall and agreed.

The Chief Officer felt that the Working Group should consider all issues in relation to the transfer of assets.

Councillor Davies called for names to form a Working Group - Councillors Davies, Jones, Hall, Hart, Jackson, McLoughlin, Rogers and Salt.

Councillor Salt would prefer a late afternoon meeting. Councillor McLoughlin suggested the Working Group could follow the Finance Strategy Management Committee. The Terms of Reference would be agreed at the first meeting.

Councillor Harper voted against the motion.

**54. TO NOTE THE LETTER RESPONDING TO THE LOCAL PLAN MAIN MODIFICATIONS, SENT FROM BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL TO STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL (ATTACHED)**

Councillor Davies noted the response which had been written on behalf of the Town Council by Hannah Barter, a copy had been circulated to members.

## 14. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

### a) Account received between meeting cycles

Hanley Print Services	1326.00
Design and print 400 Calendars	

### b) Accounts received for payment in November 2019

#### **Expenditure over £500**

<b>Mazars</b>	960.00
External audit year end March 2019	
<b>Protech Electrical Limited</b>	5266.28
Inspection test and repair of Biddulph Christmas Lights	
<b>e-on</b>	3441.74
annual charge for maintenance and energy for footpath lights as detailed	

#### **Expenditure under £500**

<b>Ash Waste Services</b>	£317.74
Weekly skip collection Town Burial Ground	
<b>Tidysite</b>	£23.10
Fortnightly bin collection Woodhouse Burial Ground	
<b>Brian Carter</b>	£40.00
Un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	
<b>Market imprest</b>	£180.00
For stall construction and dismantling	
<b>J Hancock</b>	41.94
Travel for market and event advertising	
<b>Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal</b>	25.00
Remembrance wreath	
<b>Npower</b>	18.80
Christmas Lights standing charge	
<b>Protech Electrical Limited</b>	
Replacement catenary wire	240.00
Replace unit and timer on High Street post	295.20
<b>CJ Skelhorne Jewellers</b>	124.00
Deputy Mayoress Badge of Office	
Replace ribbon, strip badge, re-plate and re-polish	
<b>Business Products</b>	
Office supplies including white paper	159.74
Copy charges	249.81
<b><u>Credit Card Payments November</u></b>	
<b>Facebook</b>	40.00
Boosts for Ethical Fair; Friends of Biddulph Valley Way meeting; An Antarctic Adventure; Male Voice Choir; Neighbourhood Plan; Dementia Friendly Cinema; Biddulph Network; Artisan Market.	
<b>Giff Gaff</b> – wifi connection	25.00
<b>Shutterstock</b> – graphic media	19.00
<b>Amazon</b> - Ink for desktop printer	11.54
<b>Amazon</b> - Cable for projector	11.58

**c) payments to be made 10 December 2019 between meeting cycles**

<b>Biddulph in Bloom</b>		6250.00
3 of 4 grant payments		
<b>Ash Waste Services</b>	in the region of	£300.00
Weekly skip collection Town Burial Ground		
<b>Tidysite</b>		£23.10
Fortnightly bin collection Woodhouse Burial Ground		
<b>Brian Carter</b>		£40.00
Un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground		
<b>Market imprest</b>		£180.00
For stall construction and dismantling		

**d) Supplementary Accounts for Payment ~ 12 November 2019**

**Expenditure above £500**

R Standell		779.00
Lengthsman – 459		
Road closure market – 160		
Road closure Remembrance Sunday - 160		
Protech Electrical		
2/3 of contract for installation		11738.40
Storage of Christmas Decorations		1680.00
Salaries for November		5343.71
HMRC		1978.62
Staffs Pension fund		2207.11
D and G Bus Ltd		3537.40
Service 93 for October 2019		

**Expenditure below £500**

Heaton House		262.80
Mini Christmas trees for shops		
Market imprest for switch on		180.00
Petty cash		56.30
Suzanne James		54.00
Memorial Rosettes		
Hanley Print Services		342.00
2 Christmas banners		
1 Biddulph in Bloom banner		
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance		58.50
Maintenance at Springfield Road		
S Haydon		
Welcome banner reimbursement		18.44
Travel and parking to Leek		10.59



**e) Supplementary Accounts to be paid in December**  
**Expenditure above £500**

D and G Bus Ltd Service 93 for November 2019	in region of 3500.00
Protech Electrical 1/3 of contract for installation	5781.60
Salaries for December	5343.51
HMRC	1978.82
Staffs Pension Fund	2207.11
R Standell Tree removal and repair to damaged drain at burial ground	1850.00
Severn Trent Water Installation and connection of water and meter at Station Road site	up to £1500
Laser Hire Light display at switch on	965+VAT
Noticeboard company For noticeboard at Halls Road Playing Fields Part of Moorlands Partnership Board project	up to 1300.00

**Expenditure below £500**

Schools/Brownies/Cubs £25 contribution towards lantern preparation, no more than 8	up to 200.00
Silvermaze Additional requirements for Biddulph map	180.00
Mrs J Webber Cake for Dementia Friendly Cinema Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> Street	iro 30.00
Filmbank Media Fee for showing Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> Street	99.00
R Standell Lengthsman charges for December Road closure switch on	to be advised 160.00
Business Products Copies for November	in region of 250.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Maintenance at Springfield Road	58.50
On Tap Towards power for Christmas Lights Biddulph Moor Village Hall For PA help given by Neil Nevill at remembrance and switch on events	in region of 50.00 400.00

J Hancock 18.72  
Travel to end December for market

We are hoping, with SMDC approval to purchase of gazebos in December

**f) Credit Card to be paid December**

Details to be advised in January, but will include

**Shutterstock** 19.00

Media graphics monthly fee

**Giff gaff** 25.00

Wifi charges

**g) Approve quotation from Keith Flunder (Laser Hire) for the Biddulph Christmas Lights Switch-on**

*To approve the quotation from Laser Hire for a 4-8W laser projection system onto the front of the Town Hall, £965+VAT. This includes bespoke graphic production. Recommended by the Christmas Lights Working Group.*

The Chief Officer had not seen the display, but a number of Councillors had viewed the options available and had recommended that there should be a laser projection system sited at the front of Town Hall in addition to the Christmas Lights.

Councillor Jackson asked what time the display would be held, the Chief Officer responded that this was flexible, but could begin at 6.00 pm and continue throughout the evening.

Councillor Rogers would ask that the display should begin earlier.

Councillor Harper asked if the display was in the budget; Councillor Davies responded that there was enough in the budget to cover the cost of the display. It was proposed by Councillor Davies and seconded by Councillor Perkin to approve the quotation of £965 + VAT

*The Mayor, Councillor Jim Davies, invited everyone you to remain for refreshments after the Town Council meeting to mark the last Town Council meeting of 2019.*

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

The members adjourned for 30 minutes for refreshments.

Signed ..... Date .....