

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2019**

The Town Crier introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; The Town Crier then led members in a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting.

### **PRESENT**

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

### **85.18 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.*

No request had been made.

### **86. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Lovatt  
Councillor Salt

### **87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Rogers in relation to travel expenses.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom. Councillor Hart in Biddulph Valley Park. Minute 93, Councillor Hart's partner was a member of the Ramblers Committee. Councillor Harper is a member of Lifeline.

## **88. MINUTES**

- a) It was moved to **approve and sign** the Minutes of the meeting the Town Council held on 19 March 2019. Minute 85 paragraph 7, Councillor Nicosia asked for an amendment, she had been contacted by residents from Conway Road.
- b) It was moved to **receive** the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 March 2019.
- c) It was moved to **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 19 March 2019.
- d) It was moved to **receive** the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019.
- e) It was moved to **receive** the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019.

## **89. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor had attended Biddulph Moor Evergreens' 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and had a wonderful time. He had presented awards and certificates at Biddulph High School, it was marvellous to see the achievements.

## **90. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SHELDON - TO CONSIDER INTRODUCING A 20 MPH CAR AND TRAFFIC SPEED LIMIT IN THE TOWN**

Councillor Sheldon had been approached when working with Biddulph in Bloom in the town. Concern had been expressed about the speed of traffic in the town centre, and the safety of those walking in the town. Councillor Sheldon felt that Biddulph would benefit from a 20-mph restriction. There were seven junctions with the High Street, the two which caused most concern were Cross Street/ Station Road, and South View/ Wharf Road. Councillor Sheldon noted that there was a lot of support throughout the country for a reduction in speed limits in towns, to encourage people to feel safe and comfortable to walk or cycle in towns. Stoke-on-Trent City Council had adopted the initiative in Milton for ten streets. Councillor Sheldon was aware of the anxiety and wondered if people were staying away from the town centre due to the traffic speed. There were two initiatives – 'Go 20' and '20's Plenty For Us' either of which could be implemented in Biddulph.

Councillor Jones thought this was a good idea, but was concerned about enforcement; he would like to see pedestrianisation and felt that this Council should aim for that.

Councillor Jackson noted that Road Traffic Orders would be needed. As a County Councillor he had helped Brown Edge Parish Council to make their whole village a 30-mph zone. Councillor Jackson noted that the biggest issue was the installation of a new sign for every alteration. There was a pot of money at the County Council; Councillor Jackson proposed that a small sub-group look at which roads would benefit from a reduction to 20 mph. This should be implemented after the election.

Councillor Hart proposed that this is added to the next agenda of the appropriate Committee. He noted that survivor rates increased in proportion to a lower speed; this was a worthwhile cause. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Hall.

Councillor Rogers supported all that had been said.

Councillor Davies felt that this matter should be addressed and implemented by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Councillor Wood seconded Councillor Jackson's proposal, adding that irresponsible drivers would still exceed the speed limit; he wondered if physical measures should be considered. Councillor Wood agreed with Councillor Jones' suggestion that pedestrianisation of the High Street should be considered; he thought this would help the situation and it needed more than signage.

Councillor Hawley noted that some of these discussions had already taken place at the Neighbourhood Plan meetings; pedestrianisation and shared space were part of the Masterplan considerations.

Councillor Harper thought it would be 'barmy' not to agree; but traffic calming, 20-mph zones and speed ramps led to a higher rate of traffic pollution, creating another problem.

Councillor Lawson noted that he and Councillor Flunder had £20,000 each for the town; it was important to make the shopping street safe.

Councillor Sheldon added that pedestrianisation of the High Street would be a wonderful thing.

It was agreed to take this item to the appropriate Committee for further discussion.

**91. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR ROGERS - 'ELECTIONS 2019 - THANK YOU AND GOODBYE'**

Councillor Rogers said it had been a pleasure to work with all Councillors. The Committees had worked well together. Some Councillors were not standing, they had put in a lot of effort, but there was new blood on the horizon.

Councillor Hall thanked all in the Council for working well together for the benefit of the people of Biddulph. Councillors Court and Nicosia had proved to be excellent Councillors, it was a pity that we were losing them; he thanked the two for their efforts.

Councillor Wood had been a Stoke-on-Trent City Councillor and a Staffordshire Moorlands District Councillor. He observed that Biddulph Town Council did its business properly and in general pulled in the right direction. It was the best Council he had worked on. Biddulph Town Council was left to its own devices, which was fantastic for Biddulph; it did get many results, worked with cross-party people around the table.

Councillor Jackson echoed the words spoken by the late ex-Councillor Humphries, there were only two ways out of local politics, 'the ballot box or a pine box'.

Councillor Baddeley added that this Council couldn't do this without the hard-working people behind the scenes.

Councillor Nicosia noted that the past four years had been an adventure and also frustrating; she had learned to choose her battles. There had been highs and lows, disappointments and victories; she had learned a lot. Councillor Nicosia noted that the ladies behind the scenes made it work.

**92. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

**a) TO APPROVE THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTATION POLICY**

The document had been previously circulated

The Chief Officer reported that this information would be added to the website for transparency. Section 4, 'HOW DOES THE TOWN COUNCIL ENSURE COMPLIANCE?' was moved by Councillor Hal and seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed.

**b) TO AGREE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO PAY FOR TOWN COUNCILLORS' REGISTRATION AS DATA CONTROLLERS IN 2019-20**

The Chief Officer noted that the rules had changed again since the agenda was produced; it seemed that Councillors would not need registration. She would need to talk individually with all Town Councillors.

It was proposed that this Council would cover necessary costs for the 11 Town Councillors; the cost for the 11 District Councillors registration would be paid by the District Council. It was agreed that, where and if necessary, this Council would cover the cost of registration.

**93. TO AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR THE 2019/20 COUNCIL**

This document had been circulated for consideration prior to the meeting.

Councillor Hawley noted on point 1.3 that this could also cover members of the public e.g. Biddulph Ramblers.

Councillor Wood felt on point 2.7 that this should be 'subject to member approval'.

The Terms of Reference were agreed; Councillor Hart abstained from the vote as his partner was a member of the Ramblers Committee.

**94. VERBAL UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT OF BIDDULPH TOWN HALL**

The Chief Officer updated the meeting on the transfer of management arrangements to include the Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitor Centre, toilet block on Wharf Road car park, the Bus Hub and toilet, the Town Hall.

A document had been created by the Assets Manager at the District Council; it needs further narrative from Finance colleagues. The Town Council solicitor has put together costs, which are dependent on how much work there is to be done, i.e. Heads of Terms, negotiating leases, etc.

Councillor Jones was bitterly disappointed that the Visitor Centre had been rolled in with this; another summer with the doors not open.

Councillor Jackson noted that this was not for lack of trying to get it moving. Andrew Stokes had been quite keen; those underneath him were terrified to move. As soon as the new Council was sitting he would nail down the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Regeneration

and Andrew Stokes to get the political ball moving. Staffing has been cut to the bone. It needs to be looked at as a whole, but separately it has to be right for us and the taxpayer; this was seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Lawson noted that the District Council was slipping more and more into Derbyshire.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor Jones to invite the new Portfolio Holder to a meeting in Biddulph. This was agreed.

## 95. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

### a) Accounts received for payment in April 2019

#### **Expenditure above £500**

<b>R Standell</b>	7100.00
Burial ground maintenance First half of contract	
<b>HB Clews Ltd</b>	1275.00
Repair to surface of roundabout at Town Burial Ground	
<b>RPS</b>	2400.00
Highway Consultancy Services Up to 22 March 2019	
<b>Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd</b>	770.04
On-site year-end closedown and mileage	
<b>RH Traffic Management</b>	767.54
Manufacture of information boards Road closure signs	
<b>Gardens and Groundworks</b>	1300.00
Storage of artisan market equipment For 6 months	
<b>R Standell</b>	718.00
April grass cutting Collect signs from manufacturer Signs placed and collected for April market	
<b>Kent County Council</b>	582.65
Photocopier contract	

#### **Expenditure below £500**

<b>Ash Waste Services Ltd</b>	358.24
4 bins at Town Burial Ground	
<b>Tidysite Skip Services Ltd</b>	23.10
Bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground	
<b>Brian Carter</b>	60.00
Un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	

<b>Countrywide Grounds Maintenance</b>	58.50
Maintenance at Springfield Road	
<b>SMDC</b>	90.00
Lease of land for Moorland Road allotment site	
Quarterly payment	
<b>Market imprest</b>	180.00
For stall construction and dismantling	
<b>Heads (Congleton) Ltd</b>	
Advert for market	97.92
Dates for markets	97.92
Advert for Dementia cinema	97.92
Advert for Local Green Space event	85.68
<b>ICCM</b>	95.00
Annual membership	
Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management	
<b>Npower</b>	140.72
Christmas lights un-metred charge	
<b>Councillor Rogers</b>	9.90
Travel to Leek	
Parish Assembly meeting 25 March 2019	

### **Credit Card payments**

<b>Facebook</b>	10.45
Boost	
<b>Giff Gaff</b>	
Wifi connection	7.50
Wifi connection	7.50
<b>Shutterstock</b>	19.00
Graphics media	

### **b) Supplementary Accounts for Payment**

#### **Expenditure above £500**

<b>Salaries</b>	5171.95
<b>HMRC</b> to be paid 31 March 2019	1856.83
<b>Staffs Pension Fund</b>	2121.97

#### **Expenditure below £500**

<b>Petty cash</b>	38.58
Feb-Mar 2019	
<b>John Arnold Galleries</b>	136.00
Framing Mayoral photographs	
Framing Tree Charter	
<b>Blonde Folly</b>	110.00
Cakes for Neighbourhood Planning event	
Cakes for Dementia cinema event	

<b>Npower</b>	
Christmas lights metred supply	18.24
Quarterly charge	
BT kiosk – defibrillator	44.81
Annual charge	
<b>Ebm printers</b>	183.60
Vinyl labels with dates	
Artisan market advertising signs	
<b>Blonde Folly</b>	
Reissue for NP event February	75.00
Reissue for Dementia Cinema event February	37.50

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

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