

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2019

PRESENT

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

Also, in attendance

Councillor Court
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley

70.18 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Salt

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- ii) Other Interests: None.

72. MINUTES

- a) It was moved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 19 March 2019.
- b) It was moved to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Burial Grounds Sub-Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2019.
- c) It was moved to sign the Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee meetings on 11 July 2018, 12 September 2018 and 13 March 2019. Minutes had been received previously for the Sub-Committee, but not signed; this Sub-Committee would cease to exist in 2019-20.

73. TO CONSIDER THE KEY THEMES FOR THE 2019/20 STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

A working draft was tabled. Key themes were:

Town and Community Committee		
No.	Action	Detail
1	Provide Support/ Information to Town Centre traders	Develop a database of traders and add information to www.biddulph.co.uk website. Consider development of a BID.
2	Development of Station Road	Phase 1 of development. Work on ownerships/ management of Sainsbury's land.
3	Enhancement of Artisan Market	Growth of monthly market and introduction of new initiatives, e.g. youth market. Analysis of footfall.
4	Involvement in Community Events	Festival, Christmas Lights, Volunteer event, heritage celebration.
5	Enhancement of partnerships	Biddulph Network, Dementia action plan, tree charter actions, Biddulph Grange Country Park Friends.
6	Management of Town Hall	Pursue management options with District Council. Consider investment in the building and promotion of asset. Re-visit embryo business idea. Existing projects- mosaic, lighting/ electricity, WIFI.
7	Expand tourism activities	Management of Visitor Centre, Biddulph map, website and improved signage, membership of Enjoy Staffordshire, Walkers are Welcome
8	Services and support for young people	Youth disco, detached youth workers, Youth People's Working Group, School's Learners Forum, play opportunities.
9	Restoration and protection of heritage	Deliver MPB projects and identify other options. Restoration of war memorial.
10	Lead town with Ceremonial occasions	Remembrance events, including VE Day anniversary in 2020.
11		
Recreation and Amenities Committee		
No.	Action	Detail
12	Development of Allotments	Identify new site, continue to manage existing sites.
13	Maintain and monitor footpaths	Footpaths 29,89- current projects. Identify small improvements.
14	Effective management of Burial Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Exclusive Rights of Burial • Drainage in Section C • Footpaths in Section M and C • Tree work- June 2019 • Memorial Testing • Tree Planting • New Garden of Remembrance
15	Protection of Open Space	Mapping with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, riparian duties at Butterfly Gardens, maintenance of BTC owned/ managed areas.

16	Improvement of Highways	Implement Highways' consultant recommendations, North High Street, bollards in alley off John Street.
17	Improvement of transport options	Management and monitoring of 93 bus service.
18		
Finance Strategy and Management Committee		
No.	Action	Detail
19	Ensure GDPR Compliance	Implementation and monitoring of new policy
20	Enhancement of Asset Register	Effective monitoring of assets.
21	Regular review of polices	Ensure operating legally and with transparency.
22	Administer grants scheme	Provide support for local organisations
23	Develop Strategy	Consider priorities in line with emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
24	Management of risk	Continue to review and assess risk.
25		

The Chief Officer noted that issues discussed previously would go forward to develop the 2019/20 Action Plan; any observations to be given to the Chief Officer.

Councillor Jackson felt that specific tasks should be identified for the Planning Committee. This was agreed.

74. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL FESTIVAL EVENTS

The Chief Officer noted that the Events and Partnerships Officer was working closely with the Festival Committee. The Town Council had developed or was supporting the following:

Tea with the Town Council- Wednesday 26 June, 11-1pm

Drop-in, meet your Councillors and Officers to see what projects are being worked on. Councillors please attend, if available.

Supporting 'Glow-in the Dark Disco'- Friday 12 July, 6.30pm

In partnership with Biddulph Youth and Community Zone.

Family Cinema- Tuesday 30 July, 10.30am

Mary Poppins Returns

Dementia Friendly Cinema- Wednesday 31 July, 1.30pm

The Greatest Showman

This is Me!- Sunday 14 July, 3.30pm

Officers supporting young person's talent show.

75. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1. SPCA training sessions

Three Local Councillor Training Courses have been arranged for:

Tuesday 14 May 2019
Wednesday 29 May 2019
Tuesday 18 June 2019

Chairmanship Skills Course- Wednesday 12 June

The Town Council would hold a briefing session on Tuesday 7 May 2019 for new and returning Councillors.

Councillor Hart thought that a very long whip and chair would be useful.

Councillor Rogers offered to drive new Councillors to SPCA events.

Councillor Wood urged Councillors to read 'Cetrine', which provided useful information on chairmanship.

2. Information item- Station Road

The contractor will begin 'setting out' at Station Road w/c 22 April. There remain some actions for the Town Council to agree, but the groundwork will commence whilst these discussions are ongoing. Signs will be displayed for residents and those parking to advise them of work in the area.

Councillor Jackson thought this was great news, it would be a case study for new Councillors 'don't expect to get things done overnight'. He praised the tenacity of the Chief Officer for pushing this forward.

Councillor Jones thanked Councillors for their courtesy and contributions. This Committee had achieved good things.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed

Date