

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2018

The Officer introduced the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Officer; The Deputy Mayor led a time of prayer.

PRESENT

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

45.18 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 requests had been made

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

Councillor Court

Councillor Harper

Councillor Rushton

and the Town Crier Mr Robinson.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Jones, Salt and Whilding were members of the Royal British Legion. Councillor Davies had claimed expenses; Councillor Nicosia's daughter attended James Bateman Junior High School; Councillor Salt was employed by the Potteries Education Trust. Councillors Lovatt and Walley were members of the Friends of Biddulph Valley Park.

48. MINUTES

- It was moved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting the Town Council held on 16 October 2018. Councillor Lovatt asked if there would be a public report about the confidential item, this would be an item on a future agenda.
- It was moved to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 October 2018. Councillor Jones asked if the outcome from the confidential part would be discussed. A press statement should be issued to inform the public of the decision.
- It was moved to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 November 2018.
- It was moved to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 13 November 2018. Councillor Redfern had not been in attendance. The numbering was amended.

49. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor thanked everyone who had helped with the recent Remembrance events; all the volunteers, the schools, the church services, the beacon event. So much had gone on, he thought it was wonderful that the whole town had pulled together for the eleven days.

50. TOWN DEAL MEETING FEEDBACK

The Chief Officer reported on the meeting which had taken place on 22 October 2018 and updated on the various projects. The Local Plan was at the enquiry phase.

The County Council had agreed a Joint growth strategy with the District Council; there were ongoing reviews of Children's Services provision.

Minutes would be circulated on receipt from the County Council.

51. TO NOTE THE CONTENTS OF A LETTER IN RELATION TO BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL

Please note, if you wish to make a representation the closing date for comments is 20 November 2018.

The information was received.

52. TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IN RELATION TO SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS (FEEDBACK FROM NALC ALSO ATTACHED, FOR INFORMATION)

Councillor Salt reported that the County-wide petition against the cuts had received 5000 signatures.

Councillor Nicosia noted that 80 years from its inception, with the endeavour to protect children walking to and from school, crossing patrols were being withdrawn. The Government was encouraging children to walk to school, patrols provided a vital service outside schools. There was a saturated volunteer community; it would be tragic to lose school crossing patrols.

Councillor Jones noted that there had been a resolution at the District Council to work with the County Council to find alternative solutions, this Council should work with it too.

Councillor Jackson noted that austerity was over.

Councillor Lawson reminded members that the item would not come before a full meeting of the County Council until February 2019.

Councillor Wood hoped that the two local County Councillors would put forward the views of Biddulph Town Council at that meeting. Councillor Wood was massively in favour of retaining crossing patrols and County Council should write to central government asking for additional funding.

Councillor Lovatt noted that the letter received, dated 7 November 2018 said consultation would begin shortly but the County Council was unable to continue funding after September 2019.

Councillor Hawley noted that this was false accounting, the issue would be pushed down the tiers of Council and end up on the Council Tax regardless of where it was paid out, so it made sense to leave it where it was.

53. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IN RELATION TO CHANGES TO OLDER AND DISABLED BUS PASSES AND THE YOUR STAFFORDSHIRE YOUTH CARD:

Dear Parish Clerk

We are currently letting people know of the changes to the bus passes, we have posters on buses and in libraries but have very few comments back we are hoping that you can help to disseminate the following information:

The Your Staffordshire Card has been a popular scheme however the numbers of people using the scheme have fallen significantly. For this reason, along with unprecedented financial pressures, the county will be ending the scheme on August 31, 2019. Passes will be valid until that date. There have been discussions with bus operators concerning ending of the Your Staffordshire Card Scheme and they have commercial options available. To find the current ticketing option that best meets your circumstances contact the bus operators in your area.

The national bus concession in England is available at any time on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, and from 9.30am to 11pm on any other day.

The pre 9:30 travel is a discretionary enhancement Staffordshire has made to the national concessionary travel scheme. Unfortunately, due to unprecedented financial pressures the county council is no longer able to be able to fund this enhancement and is proposing to end the offer from Spring 2019. You can still travel for free after 9.30am or pay the operator's fare if you wish to travel before this time or after 11pm on weekdays.

People can make comments up to the 30th November by email at yourstaffordshirecard@staffordshire.gov.uk and buspasscomments@staffordshire.gov.uk or by writing to The Bus pass Team at the address below.

Please send all post to: Staffordshire County Council, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Councillor Jackson thought that the County Council was 'salami slicing' all non-statutory services; the public was getting less and less and paying more and more. Councillors were not in local politics to cut services, but to enhance; this was disheartening and must be difficult, trying to defend the indefensible.

Councillor Lawson noted that the County Council no longer employed a Chief Financial Officer; 'Once the fountain head was cut off all would struggle as no water would come through'. There was a new portfolio holder who had new ideas.

Councillor Salt reminded members that real people's lives were being affected.

Councillor Jones felt that the comments from the County Council were disingenuous, as it later stated that it would cut the service anyway

Councillor Salt proposed, seconded by Councillor Jones to write to the County Council opposing the cuts and to request an equality impact assessment in response. The letter to be sent forthwith.

54. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

The following accounts were received for payment

Expenditure in excess of £500

SMDC

4 th of 4 annual payments for election recharge	5016.03
Accommodation and Service charge 2018/19 for three rooms at Biddulph Town Hall	24392.49

Friends of Biddulph Valley Park

Contribution to final phase of path renovations Agreed at Footpaths sub-committee 17 September 2018	1000.00
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Staffordshire County Council

Second part of contribution towards bus service 93	5954.36
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e-on

Highway lighting maintenance 2018/19 Highway Lighting energy 2018/19	3412.56
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War Memorial Restoration Company

Cleaning and inspection for restoration work	1770.00
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Bp architecture

Architecture services, tender and reporting For land at Station Road revised plans	648.00
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Expenditure below £500

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance

Land at Springfield Road for November 2018	56.80
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Ash Waste Services Ltd – four bins at Town Burial Ground

245.35

Tidysite Skip Services Ltd – bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground

20.10

B Carter – un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground

40.00

Churnet Valley Garden Furniture

Wooden Posts and rope for crowd control at events	405.60
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J Davies	40.77
Cable and ties to attach to transformer at switch on event	
Squirrel Hayes First School	25.00
Contribution to materials for lantern parade at switch on event	
Rose Holdcroft	25.00
Contribution to materials for lantern parade at switch on event For Gillow Heath Brownies	
Market imprest	270.00
For stall construction at Lights switch on	
Kent County Council – copy charges	162.20
Clare Tracey	80.00
For two Mayoral photographs	
Heads (Congleton) Ltd	
Advertising War Horse and Home Before Christmas events	156.00
Advertising Male Voice Choir event	60.00
Advertising Battle's Over event	144.00
Norma Gibson	105.51
Reimbursement for materials or afternoon tea event 3 November 2018	
Mr Ridgeway	54.50
Reimbursement for expenses incurred For Home Before Christmas event 9 November 2018	
Blonde Folly	168.00
Cakes for Home Before Christmas event 9 November 2018	
Filmbank Media	60.00
Permission to show War Horse 6 November 2018	
Hollinshead Coaches	310.00
Transport to and from National Arboretum 4 Students from each of Biddulph schools	

Biddulph Moor Evergreens	13.50
Reimbursement for outdoor refreshments for Beacon event 11 November 2018	
First Biddulph Moor Scout Group	???.00
Reimburse for food at Beacon event 11 November 2018	
Zurich Municipal	55.17
Additional premium to cover beacon event 11 November 2018	
Biddulph Moor Village Hall	100.00
Reimburse for hire of skip for debris from beacon event	
market imprest	180.00
for stall construction at Artisan Market	
S Haydon	13.85
Reimburse for blue banqueting roll	
Credit Card Payments	
Facebook	20.00
Neighbourhood Plan promotion	
XL displays	94.80
Table top display board	
eBay	21.99
Size 8.5 steel toe cap boots for market construction worker	
Amazon	21.94
2 x sets of pens for rock painting Remembrance event	
Amazon	18.99
1 x bag of pebbles for rock painting Remembrance event	
Amazon	23.99
Black kraft paper For silhouette figures in window display	

Remembrance event	
Amazon	8.49
Black double-sided foam tape for window display Remembrance event	
Amazon	5.55
Varnish for rock painting Remembrance event	
Marks and Spencer	105.00
Canapes at Allotment AGM event	
Shutterstock	19.00
Monthly charge for clipart programme	
SMDC	100.00
Annual premises licence	
Amazon	43.79
Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot	
To be paid after 18 DECEMBER 2018	
Expenditure in excess of £500	
Biddulph in Bloom 3 of 4 grant payments	6250.00
Expenditure below £500	
Ash Waste Services Ltd – four bins at Woodhouse Burial Ground exact amount to be advised at January 2019 meeting	iro 250.00
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd – bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground	20.10
market imprest for stall construction at Artisan Market	180.00
B Carter – un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00

Supplementary accounts for payment 20 November 2018

Expenditure above £500

SMDC	24392.49
Annual Service charge for rooms at Biddulph Town Hall	
Salaries	5039.52
HMRC to be paid 1 December 2018	1836.46
Staffs Pension Fund	1995.43
R Standell	1062.00
Lengthsman work October – November 2018	
Protech Electrical	11067.20
2/3 contract installation/removal of Christmas Lights	
1 digi timer – Crown and Cushion	
P A Martin trading as PR Graphics	744.00
Supply and fit 4 x finger pointer signs in the town centre	
Expenditure below £500	
RH Traffic Management	
Production of management plans for Town Centre and Biddulph Moor	156.00
Signs for Artisan Market, provision, installation and removal	481.32
First Biddulph Moor Scout Group	50.00
Reimburse for food at Beacon event 11 November 2018	
Re submitted now actual costs are known	
Waterplus	
Water supply at Town Burial Ground	53.98
Water supply at Woodhouse Burial Ground	21.65
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd	20.10
Bin at Woodhouse Burial Ground	
Petty cash	11.00
November 2018	

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 50.00
Donation for large poppies

S Haydon Travel 8.28

J Hancock Travel for Artisan Market 41.76

J Gaunt Travel for banking and interments October – November 2018 10.49

S Haydon Expenses incurred for recent events 94.35

J Gaunt Expenses incurred for recent events 23.70

SMDC

Bins at switch on event

Cllr Davies 66.00

Pies for volunteers at switch on

Duct tape

Knypersley First School 25.00

Contribution to expenses for parade at switch on event

Kingsfield First School 25.00

Contribution to expenses for parade at switch on event

DECEMBER

To be paid after 18 December 2018

Expenditure above £500

Salaries 5039.52

HMRC to be paid 1 January 2019 1835.06

Staffs Pension Fund 1995.36

Petty cash exact amount to be advised at January 2019 meeting

Protech Electrical 6922.72

1/3 contract installation/removal of Christmas Lights

Storage of decorations

RH Traffic Management exact amount to be advised at January 2019 meeting

Barriers

Expenditure below £500

Kent County Council exact amount to be advised at January 2019 meeting
Photocopier rental

Eon exact amount to be advised at January 2019 meeting
Lights metered charge
Phone boxes

Credit card bill for December exact amount to be advised at January 2019
meeting

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair to move:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 10 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

The Mayor, Councillor Oliver McGuinness, invited all present to remain for a buffet at the close of the evening’s meetings to mark the last Town Council meeting of 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed Date