

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 13 JULY 2021

PRESENT

- The Mayor – Councillor Rushton
- Deputy Mayor – Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Adams
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Swift
- Councillor Yates

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) An update was received from Councillor Flunder, Staffordshire County Council.

Councillor Flunder gave an update regarding a previous query relating to the sale of the Aldi site, and provided some details of the sale figures.

Councillor Yates said that the site is not a town centre location and the site obviously attracted a premium in Biddulph. He was concerned that this premium had not been allocated to Biddulph and asked for Councillor Flunder to continue pressing the case for this, particularly as Aldi is likely to have an impact on town centre businesses.

Councillor Flunder said that all assets are centrally managed in the County Council and they are unable to separate out which site did better or worse than expected and divvy accordingly. This response had been consistently provided following approaching several times.

Councillor Hart said that the value of town centre sites had dropped significantly since 2007. He said that the value of the Aldi site was due to the bidding war.

Councillor Jackson said that if there is no mechanism for the County Council to allocate funds in land sales that attracted additional value, then a mechanism should be created support this. This money should be used for mitigating the impact of the new Aldi site on the High Street. Councillor Flunder said he would look into the matter again.

Councillor Flunder said that areas missed from grass cutting should be done within the next two weeks if not already done.

Councillor Flunder had met with Councillor Sheldon regarding the roundabout near Aldi; Councillor Sheldon will give an update later.

Councillor Flunder had met with Councillor Redfern and the Chief Officer regarding the green at Conway Road. A working group is being formed, which residents are invited to attend.

Councillor Flunder had visited the gym at Biddulph Youth and Community Zone with Councillor Jackson and is keen to support it.

Councillor Flunder has had an application for the Biddulph Sports Council for community funding. The applications do have to be online, and there is difficulty with grants being further distributed, so Councillor Flunder will be exploring the options for supporting a successful application.

Regarding the rural bus network in Staffordshire, particularly Staffordshire Moorlands, Councillor Flunder had asked Staffordshire Moorlands District Council why himself and Councillor Lawson were not included on the consultation. Councillor Jones asked that Councillor Flunder press the issue more with the County Council rather the District Council. Councillor Flunder said that Biddulph had missed out on funding from cycling initiatives and now from the bus routes; he is awaiting a response on both these issues.

Councillor Yates also said that Akesmore Lane is now virtually unpassable due to road delamination and this needs to be rectified as the repair work carried out were not of sufficient quality. He also asked that a timeline on the cycle route be provided. Councillor Hart also expressed concerns about Akesmore Lane.

b) There was no representation from the police.

Councillor Jackson said that graffiti that included racist abuse had been sprayed at Church Road playing fields and asked that this be reported to the police. The Chief Officer said that the police had already alerted her to the issue and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had confirmed that, due to the nature of the graffiti, it will be removed within 24 hours.

The Mayor confirmed that attendees will be named in the Minutes, unless otherwise instructed.

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Redfern, Councillor Harper and Councillor Perkin

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

a) Disclosable pecuniary interests and dispensations.

Councillor Sheldon declared an interest in any matter relating to Biddulph in Bloom

b) Other interests.

None declared.

14. MINUTES

a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22 June 2021 were **approved**.

b) The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 were **approved**.

15. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave notice that the Classic Vehicle Show is due to take place on Saturday 11 September.

The Mayor also said that a Rock 'n' Roll night is being arranged for Saturday 4 September.

16. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

a) **To receive an update on the Town Council's Covid Response.**

It is anticipated that the Town Hall will be fully reopen on Monday 19 July, but hand sanitising stations will remain in place. The Chief Officer and her team are considering the wearing of masks. The local GP surgeries plan to use the Town Hall for the Covid and Flu booster clinics.

Councillor Yates asked if this means that the Council Meetings will take place in the Council Chamber and whether remote meetings will continue at all.

The Chief Officer said this will be a matter for the Finance Strategy and Management Committee to debate further, but the interim plan is to hold meetings in the Town Hall for the rest of July and consider face to face meetings in the Council Chamber thereafter. Working groups can legally continue to take place on Zoom as these are not decision-making groups.

Councillor Hart said he would like to continue the momentum of public participation that has taken place with remote meetings.

Councillor Jones wondered if the acoustics would be better in the Council Chamber and whether sound kit could be provided. Councillor Jones suggested setting up a Working Group to consider this further.

Councillor Hall said that no working group should be considered until the end of July when some review of how matters continue after the 19th can take place.

Councillor Hawley said that the IT working group could take on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Hawley, seconded by Councillor Jones, it was agreed to add the proposal for IT working group to review the recording of meetings in the Finance Strategy and Management Committee later this month.

b) To receive an update on the management of Biddulph Town Hall

At the next Finance Strategy and Management Committee was due to consider some costs for refurbishment of the bar and also resolve ongoing queries about bar use.

c) To receive an update on Health and Safety.

A review of lone working, ladder inspections, cleaning procedures and COSHH management had taken place. The Health and Safety Advisor is due to visit on 23 July 2021.

17. TO AGREE THE LICENSE FOR THE USE OF THE ALDI LAND FOR THE 93 BUS SERVICE

A draft license has been shared for Town Council consideration.

Councillor Hawley asked for confirmation that this had been reviewed by the solicitor. Councillor Jackson thanked the Chief Officer for her work negotiating the terms of the license, particularly around the additional bus journeys requested; Councillor Hart echoed this thanks. Councillor Jones said that the Transport Working Group had looked at the route of the 93 bus service and there may be some suggested adjustments, pending approval from D&G, which would mean that there would be half an hour intervals between buses at Aldi.

Councillor Jones moved to agree the license, Councillor Hart seconded.

All Councillors voted to approve.

18. TO NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 27 JULY 2021, 6PM TO APPROVE A CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR VACANCY.

Moved by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Hart. All voted in favour.

19. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts to be paid in July 2021

Expenditure Greater than £5000

Staffordshire County Council	£9985.79
Amey Highway Options Report	

Expenditure between £500 and £5000

D&G Bus Ltd	£3322.08
93 Bus Service, June 2021	

Time Assured Limited	£2400.00
Supply and Install new clock movement and controller	

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council £2027.00
Business Rates Town Hall July 2021

Derbyshire County Council £1800.52
Boiler and Gas Service February 2021

SPCA and NALC subscription £1533.00
Training Courses and Subscription Fees

Moorland Contract Cleaning £1315.32
Bus Hub Clean, June 2021

Moorland Contract Cleaning £1178.63
Grange Country Park Visitor Centre Clean, June 2021

Derbyshire County Council £1011.24
Window Cleaning August 20 - April 21

Prism £ 534.37
IT support and licenses July 2021

Expenditure Below £500

SLCC £ 464.00
Membership Fees, Sarah Haydon

Ash Waste Services £ 443.03
Bin Empties Town Burial Ground

Grenke £ 439.67
Photocopier Lease, 21/22 q2

Elizabeth Thompson £ 240.00
Internal Audit Fees 20/21 financial year

Derbyshire County Council Lift Button Repair	£ 218.59
C J Skelhorne Jewellers Deputy Mayoral Chain Update	£ 182.02
Market Stall Contractors Erection of Market Stalls, August 2021	£ 180.00
Barry Harrison Skip Hire - Park Lane Allotments	£ 170.00
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Business Rates Bus Hub July 2021 <i>Note that this expenditure will be refunded along with all business rates paid for this site since 10 August 2020</i>	£ 166.00
Charlton Solicitors Refund of extra burial fees paid	£ 158.00
Myers and Co HR Advice July - August 21	£ 150.00
Business Products Photocopier Usage June 2021	£ 139.52
Derbyshire County Blending Valves Service	£ 138.43
Derbyshire County Council Visitor Centre Strike Plate Issue	£ 138.00

K Wood Window Clean Biddulph Town Hall	£ 114.00
Fifteen Group Phones and Wi-Fi July 2021	£ 102.00
Derbyshire County Council Fire Extinguisher Service	£ 98.78
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Lease of Land at Congleton Road, 21/22 Q2	£ 90.00
Katelyn Ball Volunteer Expenses, July 2021	£ 90.00
Brian Carter Volunteer Expenses, July 2021	£ 80.00
Tidysite Town Hall Bin Empties 22/06/2021	£ 70.50
Applied Logo Services 2 x fleeces	£ 50.68
Tidysite Town Hall Bin Empties 14/06/2021	£ 47.40
Tidysite Skip Services Town Hall Bin Empties 28/06/2021	£ 47.40
WaterLogic Cooler Rental June 2021	£ 6.00

Mayors Charity £ 3.00

Donation included in payment to Town Council

Note the following regarding accounts

Joan Buck £1750.00

Town Council Summer 2021 Grant Award - Churnet Sound Radio

Note that this payment authorised in June 2021 will be made directly to Joan Buck who will transfer the funds to Churnet Sound Radio as per a written agreement provided to the Town Council Officers. This is necessary due to the Grant Awardee's bank account being unable to accept cheques.

Chatterley Vics FC £ 225.00

Town Councillor Grant 20/21, Councillor McLoughlin, Councillor Harper to Biddulph Predators.

Note that this payment was authorised to Biddulph Predators in May 2021, but will not be paid until July 2021 due to delays in receiving the grant form. The payee's organisation name has changed from Biddulph Predators to Chatterley Vics FC.

a) The following additional accounts were **approved**.

Expenditure Greater than £5000

Salaries £11725.56

Staff Salaries July 2021

Biddulph in Bloom £6250.00

Town Council Grant 21/22 Installment 1

Expenditure Greater than £500 but less than £5000

Pensions £4815.01

Staff Pensions July 2021

HMRC	£3416.18
Staff PAYE July 2021	

Expenditure below £500

R G Standell	£234.00
Lengthsman Work Jun-Jul 21	

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£126.00
Fishing Ticket Sales	

Hanley Print Services	£114.00
Signage	

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£89.53
Cash from District Council Reception Safe	

Petty Cash	£48.35
-------------------	--------

City Locks	£27.00
Key Cutting	

Ruth Breen	£5.00
Painting	

B&M	£4.00
Glass Jars	

B&M	£3.00
Punched Pockets	

Sainsbury's	£2.50
Cleaning Wipes	

Wains	£2.50
Audio Jack	

Snelsons	£2.45
Key cutting	

Sainsbury's Milk	£1.90
Natwest Business Card Credit Card July 2021	£1183.96
<hr/>	
Viking Stationery and Refreshment supplies	£327.28
A1 Skip Hire Skip Hire	£145.00
Manchester Metropolitan IPM Membership	£110.00
City Locks New Locks, Key Cutting	£102.00
Amazon Return to face to face meeting supplies	£94.36
Argos Fan, Clock	£78.98
Amazon Web Cam	£68.00
Amazon Meeting recording supplies	£56.57
HSQE Vital Skills, Staff Training Bundle	£48.00
Amazon Replacement Door Lock	£29.28
Cheshire Electrical Light bulbs	£27.60

Amazon Meeting recording supplies	£23.98
A1 Skip Hire Fridge Freezer Removal	£20.00
Shutterstock Monthly subscription fee	£19.00
Facebook Advert	£13.00
Argos Drinking glasses	£12.00
Post Office Postage	£9.90
Giff Gaff Caretaker Mobile Phone	£8.00
Giff Gaff Office Mobile Phone	£8.00
Amazon HDMI Cable	£6.99
Amazon Refund: returned microphones	£-23.98

Proposed by Councillor Garvey, seconded by Councillor Hart. All voted in favour.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

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