

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2021

PRESENT

- The Mayor – Councillor Jones
- Deputy Mayor – Councillor Rushton
- Councillor Barlow
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Redfern (arrived during Item 4)
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Swift
- Councillor Yates

Councillor Flunder was also in attendance

The Mayor read out a statement regarding the broadcasting of the meeting via social media and etiquette for remote meetings.

82. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Flunder – Staffordshire County Council gave updates in relation to schemes currently in place through Staffordshire County Council:

- Covid Winter Support Scheme.
- Active Travel Fund Consultation.
- Digital Skills Courses.
- Information sheets are available regarding Covid-19 on workplace testing for employers, symptoms and self-isolation, community testing, fraud, social media, vaccination easy read documents and many more.

- The nation is currently in step 1a and Step 1b of the 'roadmap out of lockdown' and some guidance has been issued relating to this.
- #talksuicide is being promoted this week by Staffordshire County Council and a number of promotional materials and information are available.
- Issues regarding the accessibility of home test kits for schoolchildren have been raised and Councillor Flunder is working on making these more easily accessible.
- Councillor Jones queried why the home test are difficult to obtain. Councillor Flunder said that he is seeking for test kits to be distributed from where community testing has previously taken place.
- The Support Staffordshire awards are taking place. There are 10 categories open for nomination.
- Libraries have a lot of information available. For British Science week, they currently have science packs and online activities; libraries are also offering IT support and telephone reading.
- Tool kits are available for those going in to isolation as part of the 'Do it for what matters' campaign; CCGS in Staffordshire are working closely together.
- Councillor Flunder had visited Biddulph Youth and Community Zone recently to support the continuity of their work.
- A recent issue was raised regarding the unadopted Victoria Road. Highways have confirmed that they are not aware of any attempt to adopt the road.
- At Brindley Ford there is ongoing work about flood mitigation and pot holes.
- Councillor Yates spoke about an encroaching hedgerow limiting visibility at a junction in Biddulph and supported Councillor Flunder's 'softly-softly' approach. Councillor Flunder is consulting with the highways team.
- Councillor Yates queried about the caravan at the quarry entrance at the border with Brindley Ford. Councillor Flunder said that this is illegally dumped so falls under Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, but was happy to help negotiate any support from Staffordshire County Council.
- Councillor Salt said that lateral flow tests are available online for parents of schoolchildren and will be delivered within 2 days.

- Councillor Rogers asked if the caravan was left there for the scrapyard. Councillor Sheldon said that the caravan is full of rubbish so didn't expect that the scrapyard would accept the caravan.
- Councillor Flunder said that Biddulph Town Hall had been awarded £1000 grant for upgrading the lighting to LEDs as part of the Climate Change Action Fund, following an application made by the Chief Officer.

83. APOLOGIES

Councillor McLoughlin, Councillor Adams, Councillor Harper, Councillor Baddeley, Councillor Redfern.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

a) Disclosable pecuniary interests and dispensations.

Councillor Sheldon declared an interest in any matter pertaining in Biddulph in Bloom.

b) Other interests.

None declared.

85. MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9 February 2021 were **approved**. The Minutes are to be signed when social distancing measures have been relaxed.
- The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2021 were **received**.
- The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 February 2021 were **received**.
- The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 16 February 2021 were **received**.
- The Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting held on 23 February 2021 were **approved**. Councillor Hart requested to be added to the list of councillors present.

86. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor will be doing a Zipwire challenge for the Mayor's Charity. He hoped to get a giving web page running soon and is seeking sponsors.

Councillor Jones requested nominations for the civic awards.

87. STANDING AGENDA ITEM – COVID RESPONSE UPDATE

The Chief Officer confirmed the next batch of vaccinations is awaited.

It is hoped that the Town Hall will open with a reduced service from 12 April depending on legislative changes and the roadmap out of lockdown.

Councillor Rogers asked for the number of vaccinations given at Biddulph. The Chief Officer confirmed that no figure had been obtained, due to Leek and Biddulph being covered by the same Primary Care Network.

Councillor Yates asked if the vaccination clinics will continue when the Town Hall is open and wondered what the implication will be for future winters.

The Chief Officer said that plans are being put in place for allowing both community groups and vaccination centres to operate. This includes risk assessments with or by community groups, and procedures in place regarding removing / securing medical supplies and equipment between vaccination clinics.

Councillor Flunder added that the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council infection rate had increased and there are some variants in Staffordshire. He had received an update that Biddulph is being considered for a community testing collection point.

88. STANDING AGENDA ITEM – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BIDDULPH TOWN HALL

The Chief Officer confirmed redecoration work continues in the Town Hall during lock down. There are some invoices outstanding from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council which the Chief Officer will pursue, and may need the support of the District Councillors.

Light fittings in the Town Hall will be replaced with LEDs as per the grant awarded under the Climate Change Action Fund.

89. STANDING AGENDA ITEM – UPDATE ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

The annual fire risk assessment had taken the place. There are no major concerns though a few small areas to work on including signage and ensuring tenants are adhering to the fire safety requirements.

The Chief Officer asked the Council to clarify arrangements while the Health and Safety Monitoring Councillor is currently unwell and unable to carry out

the role. It was agreed that the Chief Officer will send all health and safety reports to all councillors for the mean time.

Councillor Salt queried what work had been carried out in relation to the emergency lights. The Chief Officer stated that quotes were being obtained.

90. TO APROVE THAT THE MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND TOWN CRIER EXPENSES WILL BE COVERED FROM THE 2020-21 CIVIC ALLOWANCE (NOT PAID TO-DATE); OUTSTANDING FUNDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE MAYOR’S CHARITY ACCOUNT

As Covid restrictions have resulted in very little expenditure on the civic allowance, Councillor Jones requests that all unpaid civic allowance gets paid to the Mayor’s Charity Account. Councillor Jackson asked if this would be spent during the Mayor’s current tenure; Councillor Jones confirmed and all the allowance unspent would be donated to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

All Councillors agreed.

91. TO APPROVE A SIX-MONTH EXEMPTION FOR COUNCILLOR ADAMS DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS

Moved by Councillor Perkin and Councillor Hawley seconded. All in favour to grant a 6 month exemption to Councillor Adams.

92. THE CHIEF OFFICER TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS CAMPAIGN

The Chief Officer outlined how she has been involved in the Loneliness and social Isolation working group; the Town Council had been selected as a result of positive work on other projects. The County Council will be releasing information to address the issue and the Town Council will engage with that scheme. A series of information packs and webinars will be released and will be forwarded to Councillors.

93. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

Councillors approved payments for projects that will be complete this finance year, where as invoice has not yet been received

Company	Item	Cost	Explanation
Hanley Print	A3 Foamex boards	£305 + VAT	Promotional/ tourist information. Quote checked. Artwork is free
	2 pull up banners		
	A3 single sided leaflets		
	Tree backdrop for Tree Charter display		
Terraplas	Pedestrian Turf Protection	£2876 + VAT	£2000 received from SMDC for events/ markets
Asbestos Company	Removal of asbestos at Park Lane	£150	Approved at RAC

Councillor Redfern queried regarding the asbestos removal at Park Lane, and the Chief Officer confirmed that this is from the allotment sites.

The Chief Officer outlined that the matting over the grass would allow events to take place at the front of the Town Hall, and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have provided £2000 funding towards the provision of this product.

The following accounts were approved:

Expenditure above £5000

Biddulph in Bloom £6250.00
2020-21 Grant Award, Final Installment

Expenditure between £500 and £5000

Zurich Municipal £2248.66
28 Feb 2021 - 27 Feb 2022 Insurance

Moorland Contract Cleaning £1288.88
Wharf Road Public Toilets Cleaning, February 2021

Moorland Contract Cleaning £1117.08
Grange Road Visitor Centre Cleaning, February 2021

ASH Waste Services £541.98
Town Burial Ground Bins

Expenditure below £500

Shaw and Sons Limited £277.20
Register of Burials

Brown Lees and District Community Association £250.00
Councillor Grant - Councillor Swift

The Friends of Newpool Meadows £250.00
Councillor Grant - Councillor Baddeley

Moor First School Fund £250.00
Councillor Grant - Councillor Perkin

High Peak Borough Council £166.03
Professional Services provided by D Owen

Business Products £153.05
Stationery Supplies

Myers & Co £150.00
Employer Assist Member Sheep150

Moorland Contract Janitorial £143.46
Cleaning supplies

Fifteen £102.00
Broadband and Mobile Phones, February

Fifteen £102.00
Broadband and Mobile Phones, March

Moorland Contract Janitorial £95.88
Cleaning supplies

WaterPlus Water Supply and Usage, Town Burial Grounds	£84.18
Katelyn Ball Volunteer Expenses, March 2020	£80.00
Brian Carter Volunteer Expenses, March 2020	£80.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Springfield Road Grass Cutting	£61.40
Business Products February Photocopier Usage	£55.27
Churnet Sound Radio CIC Councillor Grant - Councillor Rogers	£50.00
SLCC Enterprises Staff Training	£42.00
SLCC Enterprises Staff Training	£42.00
SLCC Enterprises Staff Training	£42.00
Sarah Haydon Reimbursement: Computer Accessories	£26.97
WaterPlus Water Supply and Usage, Woodhouse Burial Ground	£19.78
E.On Next Town Hall Electricity, January 2021	£8.76
Sue Booth Mileage Costs February 2021	£2.25

Councillor Yates queried the small amount for electricity. The Chief Officer confirmed that there has been a change in the way the Town Hall has been billed, and this is likely to be the cause of the low bill.

The following supplementary bills were approved

Expenditure Greater than £5000

Staff Salaries	£11608.86
Salaries, March 2021	

Expenditure between £500 and £5000

Staffordshire Pension Fund	£4656.16
Staff Pensions March 2021	

D&G Bus Services Letd	£3076.00
93 Bus Route, February 2021	

HMRC	£3007.63
Staff PAYE contributions March 2021	

Derbyshire County Council	£2089.66
Fire and Intruder Services. 234 days	

Derbyshire County Council	£1065.53
Stage Lighting Service, Biddulph Town Council	

Prism	£976.62
IT Support Costs, February and March (Note - paid by Direct Debit February 2021)	

Prism	£632.22
IT equipment	

Expenditure below £500

Silvermaze	£222.00
Biddulph Map	

Derbyshire County Council Town Hall PAT Testing 2020/2021	£221.46
BP Architecture Rendering images of mining wheel	£210.00
Knypersley Cricket Club Councillor Grant - Councillor Rushton	£100.00
Derbyshire County Council Visitor Centre PAT Testing 2020/2021	£62.10
Derbyshire County Council Automatic Doors Service, Town Hall	£41.40
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd Woodhouse Burial Ground Bins	£23.10
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd Additional Bin Empty, Woodhouse Burial Ground - 08/03/2021	£23.10
Alan Richardson Reimbursement of decorating supplies	£2.60
Natwest Credit Card Expenditure	£345.09
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Facebook Facebook Advertising	£1.20
GiffGaff Mobile Phone Costs	£8.00
GiffGaff Mobile Phone Costs	£8.00
ShutterShock Subscription Costs	£19.00

Land Registry	£6.00
Land Register Search, Land behind Kingsfield Crescent	
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£161.70
Brown Bags	
Specialised Canvas	£117.74
Union Flag	
Pickerz	£23.45
Bin Bag Hoop Holder	
Petty Cash	£55.63
Expenditure as Detailed Below	
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Sainsburys	£14.80
Cleaning supplies	
Sainsburys	£2.50
Card	
Post Office	£10.32
Postage	
Home Bargains	£4.56
Stationery	
Home Bargains	£3.98
Cleaning supplies	
Sainsbury's	£3.00
Card	
Post Office	£16.47

Councillor Hawley requested clarity on the multiple bills from Derbyshire County Council, and queried if these jobs needed tendering to other contractors. The Chief Officer confirmed that alternative contracts are being reviewed.

Councillor Smith asked if there was any money left on the pot for Councillor grants as she has been approached for a grant, but has nothing left to contribute.

Councillor Garvey enquired whether his grants had been awarded as they are not showing on the accounts. The Chief Officer confirmed that these will be paid.

CONFIDENTIAL

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded.

71. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE ALDI DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL LEASE AND LEGAL FEES

It was agreed that the Town Council would continue to liaise with Aldi representatives with regard to the proposed 93 bus service.

72. TO NOTE THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE TO MARK SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC EVENTS

It was noted that plans are in place.

The meeting ended at 7:18pm

Signed Date.....