

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT

- The Mayor - Councillor Davies
- The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Jones
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Barlow
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Rushton
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Swift
- Councillor Yates

Also, in attendance

- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor Salt

88. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Redfern

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- ii. Other Interests: Minute 90aba, Councillor Sheldon knew Phil Brown well. Councillor Salt noted that she was no longer on the board of Biddulph Youth and Community Zone (BYCZ)

90. MINUTES

- a. The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 were **signed** as an accurate record.

- b. The Notes from the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 21 January 2020 were received. The next meeting will be held 25 February 2020.

91. AN UPDATE FROM ANTONY CAPOSTAGNO IN RELATION TO THE WORK OF THE BIDDULPH YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ZONE

Mr Capostagno was unable to attend, the item to be deferred to a later date.

92. STATION ROAD

a) To consider initial designs for the mining memorial

The Chief Officer circulated designs that had been submitted by PM Training; they had previously designed the Biddulph in Bloom clematis art installation. The proposed theme was an image of a mining lamp 3-metres high with local scenes depicted in silhouette in the windows.

Councillor Yates asked if the lamp would be open on all sides with a series of images.

Councillor Smith thought the design was very flat; she thought it had previously been agreed to install a 3D representation. Councillor Jones concurred, if the structure was not 3D it was just a 7 feet tall climbing frame.

Councillor Harper asked what gauge the metal would be.

Councillor Baddeley noted that this Council would decide on behalf of the people, she felt that people would go for a miners' lamp design.

Councillor Davies liked the design. The cut-outs worked very well, however, he did not think that the outline shape would blow up well.

Councillor Sheldon felt there would not be enough space on the site for tubs, which had been considered previously.

Councillor Jones considered a smaller 2D lamp but wondered which way it should be angled.

Councillor Rogers noted that coal tubs used to be very available, but now a reproduction would have to be made to fit the site.

Councillor Salt had examined the cabinets and noted the last piece of coal that had been mined at the Victoria Colliery was displayed; she wondered if a stone memorial could be commissioned which would reproduce the shape.

Councillor Yates suggested a brick plinth as a stand for the memorial; he added that Cardiff had a huge anthracite block 6 x 4 feet which was raised on a plinth.

Councillor Yates suggested that the Chief Officer take the comments above back to the artist.

Councillor Rushton was concerned about a seat made of memorial bricks, people might sit and kick their feet back and destroy the names, the wall should be so high that it cannot be sat on.

Councillor Harper asked what size was envisaged for the tubs, they ranged in size from 20 tonnes down to half a tonne.

Councillor McLoughlin noted that this Committee needed to come to an agreement for instruction for the artist.

Councillor Salt asked where the names of those who had died in the mines would be placed.

Councillor Smith circulated a picture of a memorial at Silverdale.

Councillor Jones suggested something round with something relevant to mining on top.

Councillor Hart agreed, adding that it should be made of stone.

Councillor Davies asked if we had an official list of those who had died in the mines at Biddulph; these names should be on the memorial and those with any subsequent connection should be remembered via the memorial bricks.

b) To receive an update on utilities connections

The Chief Officer reported that water would be connected to the site very soon; the contractor was liaising with Severn Trent Water. With reference to the connection of electricity, the Chief Officer reported that if the current problem was not resolved she would contact the Ombudsman.

The Chief Officer noted that the surface was checked regularly.

Councillor Harper asked how the surface water drained, the Chief Officer responded that drains had been built in for the fountains, other water went into normal land drains.

Councillor Sheldon noted that the route through the site was the main footpath to Craigside and was a very very important footpath.

93. 'DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY' UPDATE

The Town Council is required to form a 'Steering Group' that can guide the actions around being a Dementia Friendly Community. This Group will need to:

- *Receive feedback from people living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia to ascertain what is needed in Biddulph to enhance the lives of people with dementia and their carers.*
- *Raise Awareness of Dementia.*
- *Provide evidence of actions taken.*

This meeting can be open to the public.

The Chief Officer noted that this Council was working towards being a Dementia Friendly Community and would always be working towards it. Training Dementia Friends was going well, and the dementia friendly cinema sessions had been successful and touching.

The Events and Partnerships Officer added that the next steps were to assess the building and create a Steering Group to oversee further actions.

The Chief Officer requested permission to proceed and any interested members to contact her; the scheme would also be advertised in the town for interested people to help bring it all together.

Councillor Jones fully endorsed the enterprise and added that there had not been a big take up from Councillors with a previous Working Group.

The Chief Officer responded that it did not need to be Councillor-led, but this Committee needed to agree that this was something which Councillors wanted to progress.

Councillor Yates was happy to attend when he could.

The Chief Officer wanted to get together with carers or those experiencing dementia and find out what they needed in the town.

Councillor Smith had worked with residents with dementia on a day-to-day basis and would like to be part of this initiative.

Councillor Harper asked how many Dementia Friends had been trained, the Chief Officer responded that there were over 200 in the town.

It was proposed by Councillor Rushton and seconded by Councillor Jones to approve the next steps and to form a Steering Group, Councillor Baddeley abstained.

94. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR YATES- TO CONSIDER A LITTER PICK AS PART OF THE 'GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN' (20 MARCH - 13 APRIL 2020) AT MOW LANE WITH A ROAD CLOSURE

Councillor Yates reported that litter on Mow Lane from the junction with Wedgwood Lane to Congleton Edge was beyond disgraceful, but was very difficult to safely litter pick. He would like to close that part of Mow Lane for a short time within that period above to highlight the issue. If successful it could be continued on other lanes.

Councillor Hart noted that Mow Lane was litter picked every month by a volunteer and had been done recently. He added that the District Council carried out a deeper clean using a transit van with hazard lights protecting the worker in the road in front; he felt that the problem was rain carrying detritus down. The street sweeper would go there on Friday and try to get the grids emptied.

Councillor Davies concurred, there was a similar problem in Woodhouse Lane, but the street cleaner was very good and would come and clean the road. Councillor Davies noted that 12 weeks' notice was required to close the road.

Councillor Hawley agreed, adding that the new instruction was tighter.

Councillor Sheldon agreed that Woodhouse Lane was difficult to litter pick safely.

Councillor Rogers added that grids in the town centre and Gillow Heath were being emptied that day.

Councillor Yates respected the work of the litter pickers and did not decry their capability, but was advocating a deep clean litter pick to raise the profile that it was an issue.

All agreed to go ahead with an application for a road closure for some time in June 2020 for Mow Lane.

95. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FLOOD INTERVENTIONS IN THE STATION ROAD/ DORSET DRIVE AREA

Councillor Yates gave a visual presentation of the recent flood prevention work. Work had primarily been carried out near to Dorset Drive, Chepstow Close and Chelsea Close.

Natural debris traps had been created to prevent build up under the bridge which led to flooding. Councillor Yates would ensure that the debris was removed regularly. Work on the channels had been carried out to reduce capacity, holding high water levels back like a sluice gate so that it flowed slower and formed temporary pooling rather than flooding further downstream.

Councillor Yates would contact the Environment Agency about removing a tree that was causing damage and flooding; it was growing on the bank at the bottom of Sandyfield Court. He noted that the Environment Agency would take over the management of the flooding problem as the brooks in the area had been classified as a main river.

96. TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUCCESSFUL POCKET PARK APPLICATION

The Chief Officer reported that a bid for a small area had been successful. Grant monies would be paid to the District Council; specifications had to be submitted before the District Council would sanction the work and release the funds. The Chief Officer noted that match funding could take the form of volunteer work, payment for a bench and planting. Work must begin on site before the end of March 2020. Concern had been expressed at District Council about ongoing maintenance costs.

Councillor Hawley had spoken at the enquiry in Leek about Local Green Spaces (LGS) in the Local Plan, he felt that the Inspector may change his mind if further evidence was presented from this successful application

Councillors Yates and Smith proposed that the work goes ahead after an update at the next meeting of the Town Council in March 2020, but that the acceptance forms are sent now in principle, with funding allocated towards the work.

Councillor Yates thanked Councillor Smith for bringing this scheme to his attention and thanked the Chief Officer for a fantastically well written application report. Further funding opportunities should be sought.

Councillor Yates proposed, seconded by Councillor Rushton that the information is submitted to the Inspector via Jo Brookes, and that an application is also made to the Coalfields Community Fund and the Severn Trent Community Fund.

97. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A PROPOSED GARDEN FESTIVAL AND OTHER SPRINGTIME EVENTS

The event would be held on 2 May 2020 and would celebrate all things 'gardeny' and the good work done by Biddulph in Bloom.

The Chief Officer and Events and Partnerships Officer had met with Mr Paul Walton, the Head Gardener Biddulph Grange Gardens, he was keen to support the event. It was hoped to hold demonstrations for people to learn new skills and have stalls selling plants and other gardening goods. The event would be followed by a beer festival in the evening.

The Chief Officer noted that this would be a very busy Spring with The Mayor's function, the Garden Festival and VE/VJ Day commemorations.

With reference to the Garden event, Councillor Salt suggested that schools could be involved by designing a garden which would be built on the day. The Events and Partnerships Officer noted that a tray garden competition was among the items being considered.

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."

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

98. TO DISCUSS THE BIDDULPH ARTISAN MARKET AND PLANS FOR 2020-21

It was agreed to condense the location and to ask the District Council to contribute to a temporary grass cover outside the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed Date