

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2021

PRESENT

- The Mayor - Councillor Rushton
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Redfern
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Yates
- Adrian Lawton / Councillor Lawton

21. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Adams, Councillor Garvey and Councillor Hawley

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) **To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations.**
Councillor Sheldon declared an interest in any matter relating to Biddulph in Bloom.
- b) **To declare any Other Disclosable Interests.**
None declared.

23. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13 July 2021. Moved Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Hart. All voted in favour.
- b) The **receive** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 13 July 2021. Moved by Councillor Hart, seconded by Councillor Jones. All voted in favour.
- c) To **receive** the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20 July 2021. Moved by Councillor Perkin, seconded by Councillor Jones. All voted in favour.
- d) To **receive** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 20 July 2021. Moved by Councillor McLoughlin; Councillor Yates seconded. All voted in favour.

24. TO APPROVE THE CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR FOR THE SOUTH WARD

Please note, the application has been sent separately.

The Chief Officer outlined the following process.

- The candidate will be asked to make a brief, verbal presentation to Council in support of their application; this will not exceed three minutes.
- Members may ask questions, but there will be no discussion about the presentation.
- Following the presentation by the candidate, the Mayor will call for nominations, which should be duly proposed and seconded.
- A vote will be taken.
- New Councillor (if approved) to sign the Declaration of Office.
- Further detail is included within the Co-Option Policy.

Adrian Lawton spoke for three minutes about his background as a resident and active volunteer in Biddulph. He also outlined his reasons for wanting to become a Councillor for Biddulph South Ward. He stated that he can offer a politically neutral stance, an attitude of seeking cooperation and his desire to offer an excellent service for Biddulph. His interests include transport, car

parking and Town Centre events. He hopes that he can support the issues residents of the South Ward are experiencing and he is keen to continue to learn.

No questions were posed to Councillor Lawton.

Councillor Hall proposed to accept Adrian Lawton to take up the vacant Councillor position for the South Ward; Councillor Redfern seconded. All voted in favour. Adrian Lawton accepted the role and signed the Declaration of Office.

Councillor Jackson thanked Councillor Lawton for his work preparing the co-option application and said he looked forward to working further with Councillor Lawton.

25. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT. THIS DOCUMENT WAS RECEIVED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING; NO FURTHER COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

Councillor Jones moved; seconded by Councillor Hart. All voted in favour to approve the Annual Report.

26. TO APPROVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ATTACHED DESIGN FOR THE STATION ROAD MINING MEMORIAL.

Councillor Sheldon said that she could not approve of the movement of the wheel. She advocated that it be left where it is.

Councillor Jones spoke of the background in relation to this decision, and said he understood that people had concerns. He spoke of the plan to move the wheel with 'appropriate reverence', and to enhance its role as a memorial to the miners of the town. He noted that there would be a plinth with an appropriate plaque, names of miners included, in an accessible location and lit up at night so that this could be seen by more people.

Councillor Jackson said he genuinely believed that the proposal will enhance the wheel. He also noted that approximately 60 nominations had been put forward for names to be memorialised in the bricks.

Councillor Rushton said that she did not support the movement of wheel. She felt that the footfall will mean that less people get to appreciate the wheel. She appreciates some of the ideas however, and does have names to put forward for the bricks.

Councillor McLoughlin said that Councillor Harper had previously gained a list of over 150 people who had died in the local coal pits and Councillor Jackson had also noted that there were a number of people who died as a result of mining related injuries, outside of the pits. He felt that it was important to memorialise all those from the town who died in relation to mining injuries.

Councillor Harper said the aim was honour the memory of the people that had died. He said the position at Station Road was poignant as the people that died often had funerals held at the Methodist Church directly opposite. He also thanked Councillor Jones, Councillor Jackson and Councillor McLoughlin for their work. Councillor Harper also expressed concern that the current location was not sufficiently visible.

Councillor Sheldon asked the Councillors how they were consulting and taking into account wishes of George Humphries' family. Councillor Jackson confirmed that the family of George Humphries had been invited to a meeting to discuss the plan. There were mixed feelings towards the movement of the wheel.

14 Councillors voted in favour to continue with the Station Road mining memorial, 3 voted against. There was one abstention. The motion was approved.

Councillor Sheldon said she felt the public should be consulted. Councillor Jones confirmed that an appropriate process had been followed as part of decision-making; this had now been approved.

27. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) The following accounts to be paid in **August 2021**:

Councillor Davies queried the cost of the ADT alarm costs. The Chief Officer outlined that there was a dispute with the invoice; these would be the maximum charges applied.

Councillor Jones proposed, Councillor Perkin seconded. All voted in favour to approve the accounts.

Expenditure between £500 and £5000

C1 Ceilings and Partitions	£2170.00
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Suspended Ceiling at Visitor Centre

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

Expenditure below £500

ADT	£481.20
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System Reset Intruder Alarm

Prism	£189.77
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Telephones June 2021

Market Stall Contractors	£180.00
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September Artisan Market Set up and Dismantling

Myers and Co	£150.00
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HR Retainer July 2021

K Wood	£114.00
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Window Clean June 2021

Fifteen Group	£102.00
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Wifi August 2021

Katelyn Ball	£90.00
Volunteer Expenses August 2021	
Brian Carter	£80.00
Volunteer Expenses August 2021	
Information Commisioners Office	£40.00
Annual Fee	
Tidysite Skip Services	£20.70
Town Hall Bin Empty 12/07/2021	

To **approve** the payment of the following anticipated expenditure for August 2021 based upon the following estimates provided below. The actual amounts paid will be confirmed and approved at the Town Council Meeting of September 2021

Expenditure above £5000

Salaries	£12500.00
August 2021	
Staffordshire Pension Fund	£5000.00
Staff Pensions August 2021	

Expenditure between £500 and £5000

HMRC	£3500.00
Staff PAYE August 2021	
D&G Bus Ltd	£3500.00
93 Bus July 2021	
Moorland Contract Cleaning	£1350.00
Bus Hub Cleaning, July 2021	
Moorland Contract Cleaning	£1200.00

Visitor Centre Cleaning, July 2021

Prism	£550.00
IT license and support August 2021	
Expenditure below £500	
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Ash Waste Services	£400.00
Town Burial Ground Bins August 2021	
ADT	£400.00
Reset of Visitor Centre Intruder Alarm	
Tidysite	£200.00
Town Hall Bin Empties July/ August 2021	
Business Products	£150.00
Photocopier Usage July 2021	
K Wood	£114.00
Window Clean, July 2021	
Tidysite	£50.00
Woodhouse Burial Ground Bin Empties July / August	
Applied Logo Services	£25.00
Fleece	
E.On Next	£10.00
Xmas Lights Electricity Meter	
Waterlogic	£6.00
Water Cooler Rental Aug 2021	
Petty Cash	£60.00
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An itemised breakdown of exact petty cash expenditure incurred will be provided at Town Council in September 2021

Natwest Business Card £1000.00

An itemised breakdown of credit card expenditure incurred will be provided at Town Council in September 2021

Additional Accounts:

Expenditure Greater than £500

Prism £534.37
IT support and Licenses August 2021

Expenditure under £500

Business Products £148.81
Photocopier Usage July 2021

Tidysite £47.40
Town Hall Bin Empties 19/07/2021

Tidysite £20.70
Town Hall Bin Empties 26/07/2021

Sarah Haydon £9.99
Reimburse, Hazard Tape / Diary.

The meeting closed at 6.42pm.

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