

MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT

- Deputy Mayor - Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Smith

Also in attendance- Councillor Lawton

22. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Jackson, Councillor Swift and Councillor Yates.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

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

b) Other Interests

Councillor Lawton is a member of the Biddulph and District Genealogical and Historical Society.

24. MINUTES

a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 21 September 2021

The minutes were approved, having been received at Town Council. The Chief Officer confirmed that she had referred highways issues at Dorset Drive and Oxhey Drive to Councillors Flunder and Lawson.

b) To **receive** the Environment and Climate Change Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 30 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor Davies; seconded by Councillor Garvey and approved.

- c) To **receive** the Christmas Events Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 20 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor Davies; seconded by Councillor Garvey and approved.

- d) To **receive** the Christmas Events Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 11 October 2021

Proposed by Councillor Davies; seconded by Councillor Garvey and approved.

- e) To **receive** the Civic Events Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 20 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Davies and approved.

- f) To **receive** the Civic Events Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 11 October 2021

Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Davies and approved. Councillor McLoughlin thanked those who were involved in the Mayor's Civic Service.

25. TO CONSIDER THE USE OF STOCK IMAGES, PROVIDED BY SHUTTERSTOCK OR CANVA AND TO AGREE A SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE NEXT 12-MONTHS

The Events and Partnerships Officer noted that the quality and range of images available via CANVA was much improved; this was also a cheaper option. The Chief Officer noted it was important to ensure that social media and other publications were professional in appearance. £99 per year allowed access to unlimited images. Councillor Smith stated that she used CANVA. Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Garvey and agreed.

26. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEMENTIA ACTION PLAN (DOCUMENT TO FOLLOW)

Councillors considered the updated action plan; the Chief Officer talked through the actions. Councillor Jones thanked the Chief Officer and the Events and Partnerships Officer; Councillor Davies echoed this appreciation. He noted that the Dementia Friendly Cinema had been very positive.

The Events and Partnerships Officer informed members that the film in December is 'Oh What a Lovely War'.

Councillor Smith queried what actions were being undertaken to engage with care homes; the Events and Partnerships Officer noted that local companies were always informed. There was consideration of whether this could be an outreach project.

The action plan was received.

27. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON WELCOME BACK FUNDING

The Chief Officer noted that good progress had been made in relation to the Welcome Back funding; a purchase order had now been received from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) allowing the Town Council to make claims.

Councillor Jones queried the content of a social media news outlet. The Chief Officer stated that she had not been asked to comment. As far as she was concerned, there were no issues in spending the money. Some work was needed to prepare for events and other activities and funding had to be claimed retrospectively, once the money had been spent.

Councillor Rogers felt the situation in Biddulph was more positive than other towns; there were very few empty shops.

There was discussion about Easter events, but the funding should be spent by the end of March 2022.

Councillor Rogers queried whether new businesses in the town could be supported; the Events and Partnerships Officer confirmed that cards are always sent to new businesses in the town.

28. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE HALLOWEEN TRAIL AND HIGH STREET VOUCHER SCHEME

A new project was being undertaken, which would allow the new café at the Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitor Centre to attract families with a trail and activities in the Park, and also link this to encouraging people to use the High Street. The scheme offered vouchers to the winners.

Councillor Jones was impressed; this was a good scheme.

29. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON AN AUDIT OF BIDDULPH MUSEUM ITEMS BY THE BIDDULPH AND DISTRICT GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Councillor Lawton updated members that a full audit had been completed of items that had been given to the Town Council. These had been sorted into those that had a connection to the town and those that had no connection with the locality. There were also photos and CD recordings.

There was consideration of a display in the foyer of the Town Hall. Councillor McLoughlin queried whether there were any items of value; it was felt that there were no items of significant intrinsic value. Items were of local interest.

Councillor Jones offered thanks to the group from the Historical Society. There was further discussions about displays and events that could take place over the coming year.

30. TO RECEIVE A DONATION OF A PAINTING OF THE GILLOW HEATH STATION

Councillor Lawton provided a background about an old photo of the station at Gillow Heath and trains that used the station; the painting had been based on this photograph and had been donated by the Historical Society.

Councillor Davies proposed that this should be displayed in the Council Chamber; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

31. TO AGREE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COSTS

The Chief Officer updated members that temporary lighting had been sourced via Protech, who were the Town Council's contractor. This could be included within Section 10 of their contract - Additional Services. These are LED lights and would be attached by a hoop around the lime trees. They would be removed post Christmas. The cost was £1600 to source and fit the lights.

Proposed by Councillor Davies that these be sourced forthwith; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

The meeting ended at 7:41pm.

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