

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2021

## PRESENT

- The Deputy Mayor- Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Adams
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor Lawton
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Yates

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*To receive verbal or written representations from:*

- PROVISIONAL- to receive presentations in relation to two petitions received:
  - 1) The proposed relocation of the Mining Wheel

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that there would be no discussion of the content of the petitions.

The Chief Officer noted that neither petitioner was able to attend, but both had provided written statements:

*Dear Members of Biddulph Town Council,*

*I am sorry that I could not be with you in person tonight. Unfortunately I've had a pre-arranged dental appointment scheduled for some time from 6 to 7:30pm today and so could not attend (though you'll appreciate I'd have preferred to have been with you than at the dentist!)*

*Thankyou for your kind invitation to formally present the petition. I have already forwarded this to you in previous correspondence and so you should have sight of the signatories and their details.*

*For me personally, I appreciate that as a town council you are simply trying to do the right thing by the town in terms of the memorial and I'd be grateful if you would simply consider these points in your conversations this evening:*

*1) Why is the relocation of the mining wheel required? According to the town plans drawn up by a third party contractor some years ago, they actually suggest the retention of the mining wheel as "modern art". Presumably its part of a plan to perhaps open up the front of the town hall somehow but there isn't a clear understanding of what would replace the wheel if it were to be moved.*

*2) If it absolutely has to be moved, what safeguards can be put in place to ensure that the wheel doesn't fall foul of well documented anti-social behaviour that has taken place in the past in the Station Road area?*

*I wanted to formally say that I actually think the concept of a miners memorial is a lovely idea but I actually don't see any reason why it couldn't be situated where the current wheel is now, in a better lit and less vandalised area.*

*I wish you the very best in your discussions this evening.*

The Chief Officer also circulated the original letter that had been received with the petition information.

The Chief Officer noted that Councillors had agreed to consider the petition because this had been received prior to the approval of a policy.

Councillor Harper proposed to formally receive the petition; seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Salt proposed that this petition should be referred to the Town and Community Committee. Councillor Jones confirmed that this agenda item would be to debate legitimacy, validity and the next steps. There was consideration about the timescales for revisiting decisions. Councillor Rogers wondered whether a separate special meeting might be appropriate.

All voted in favour of receiving the petition. Proposed by Councillor Salt, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin to consider this at the November meeting of the Town and Community Committee. Agreed.

- 2) A proposal for additional/alternative road markings on the crossroad of Crowborough Road/Lask Edge Road and Blackwood House Lane.

The petitioner had sent the following note, to accompany the petition received:

*The reason I started this campaign was down to the fact our land comes onto the crossroads and on one occasion as I arrived home from work a car was in our field along with my two horses, three of the fields adjacent to the crossroads have all had cars in them. Air ambulance has attended RTA on four occasions in the last 3 years taking into account we had no traffic for one year. My concerns are more for the safety of my children who travel along that road and on more than one occasion have seen cars go straight across the junction, unfortunately people rely on SAT NAV and looking at my SAT NAV a green line travels straight across and does not show a junction. Should you require any further details before you read out my statement please do not hesitate to contact me.*

Councillor Harper proposed that the petition should be received and referred on to County Highways; our 'weight' would help with the cause. Councillor Jones felt this should be referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee; seconded by Councillor Hall. All agreed.

Councillor Yates felt it was appropriate that the County Council representatives should be made aware of the petition.

- *Staffordshire Police*

PC Leake noted that crime figures were down, but there had been a recent increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Three properties were due to be closed as a result of ASB, drugs and other issues.

There were five suspected offenders in relation to the Moorland Road fire.

PC Leake noted that Police surgeries were to be reintroduced at the Town Hall; there would also be more activity via social media.

There were three new Officers on the Biddulph Neighbourhood Team.

Councillor Salt wondered whether surgeries could take place anywhere else in the town; this would be possible.

Councillor Jackson queried whether the Police and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) had worked together in relation to the Moorland Road fire. He was pleased to hear about the activity with the three properties. Councillor Harper queried where these individuals would be based; this would depend on their needs.

Councillor Jones would like contact information for local Officers, to consider non-urgent issues.

Councillor Sheldon was surprised that the ASB figures were not higher. PC Leake wondered whether this was because of a lack of reporting.

Councillor Yates was concerned that CCTV was not as it should be.

Councillor Garvey wondered whether there had been any issues identified on the Uplands Estate; PC Leake would look to carry out occasional patrols, but was not aware of anything recently.

- *Staffordshire County Council representative(s)*

Councillor Lawson had received a list of queries since the last Town Council meeting, via Councillor Flunder. He provided some clarification as to these issues.

Councillor Salt queried whether there had been any feedback in relation to collisions on Grange Road; would traffic calming measures be appropriate?

Councillor Lawson noted that 'humps' would not be possible. PC Leake would make enquiries as to mobile police cameras. Councillor Salt noted that there were no speed limit signs.

Councillor McLoughlin stated that there was an issue on Mow Lane with the quality of Amey repairs; it was very dangerous at the junction with Wedgewood Lane.

Councillor Yates referred to previous discussions at the Town and Community Committee about the use of speed-volume counters on Dorset Drive and Oxhey Drive. He felt a site visit would be appropriate.

Councillor Flunder noted that there was still a push on covid-testing; rates were still high, but looking better.

Councillor Flunder had held Divisional Highways Programme (DHP) meetings. Knypersley Highways Working Group questionnaires would be sent out imminently. He had also received reassurances that the roundabouts at the top of the inner relief road would be reinstated when the road closures were complete.

Both County Councillors were meeting with the Chief Officer the following week; any other issues should be raised in advance of this meeting.

There was a reminder that the Community Fund deadline was 31 October; any suitable organisations and projects should be referred to the County Councillors for consideration.

Councillor Jackson queried why the parking issues on St John's Road had not been included within the Knypersley Highways Working Group project. Councillor Flunder felt this area could be included in further work.

Councillor Yates was concerned that resolving parking issues was like 'squeezing a balloon'.

Councillor Flunder noted that he had approached the Officer who was dealing with the development of a bus strategy at the County Council; he had been promised a response.

Councillor Jones was concerned that this was too late. Councillor Lawton agreed; Biddulph had lost out heavily.

Councillor Harper wondered whether there could be a weight limit consideration on Fold Lane, and on the Gibacre Bridge on Grange Road.

Councillor Smith wondered whether the crossing patrol would be repositioned near to the new Aldi.

**The Mayor to confirm that attendees will be named in the Minutes, unless otherwise instructed.**

### **39. APOLOGIES**

Apologies and reasons for absence were approved from:

- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor Redfern
- Councillor Rushton

### **40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations  
Councillor Sheldon declared an interest in anything related to Biddulph in Bloom.

b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: None.

### **41. MINUTES**

a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 14 September 2021  
Proposed by Councillor Hall; seconded by Councillor Harper and agreed.  
Councillor Jones noted that the Freedom of Information statistics had been received in relation to the ambulance provision; Councillors should 'stay tuned'.

b) To **receive** the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 14 September 2021  
Proposed by Councillor Hart; seconded by Councillor Harper and agreed.

c) To **receive** the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21 September 2021  
Proposed by Councillor Davies; seconded by Councillor McLoughlin and agreed.

- d) To **receive** the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 21 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor McLoughlin; seconded by Councillor Harper and agreed.

- e) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting held on 28 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor Hall; seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.

## **42. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor Garvey noted that the Mayor was unwell and sent his best wishes; it was an honour to deputise.

Councillor Garvey had attended events at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) and Cheadle. The Mayor's Civic Service would take place on 17 October, with the dedication of the new Royal British Legion standard.

There would be a rock and roll night on 20 November; all were encouraged to purchase tickets.

## **43. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a) To **receive** an update on the Town Council's covid pandemic response

The Chief Officer noted that the Town Council was working with the GP's to offer booster vaccinations. There was a query about school vaccinations; the Chief Officer would make enquiries as to how these were progressing. Councillor Salt understood there was a shortage of vaccinators.

b) To **receive** an update on the management of Biddulph Town Hall  
The Chief Officer confirmed that service charge information had now been received from SMDC. This would be considered further at the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting in November.

- c) To **receive** an update on health and safety

The Chief Officer noted that the Fire Evacuation Plan had been reviewed; liaison with tenants in the building was ongoing.

#### **44. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVIES: TO DEVELOP A TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT REGARDING COP26 (PROPOSAL ATTACHED)**

Councillor Davies stated that the formal deadline for representations to COP26 (the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference) had ended in March 2021. However, it was still important to raise the concerns of the Town Council. Councillor Davies proposed the following statement:

*The burning of fossil fuels is damaging the planet we live on. If the damage is not contained the planet will get hotter and hotter to a level where the human race will no longer be able to survive. We therefore ask that burning fossil fuels is replaced by renewable energy sources as soon as possible. Renewable energy generation is now comparably priced to fossil fuel supplies. We ask that all new housing is built to the highest thermal standards and that solar panels are included in every new roof, and that ways and means are found to bring older housing stock up to high thermal standards. We ask that transport is decarbonised through battery or hydrogen technology. We ask that industry is encouraged to generate as much of its own energy as possible through roof based solar panels and wind turbines. We ask that planning regulations demand the avoidance of fossil fuel requirements in all future development and encourage the building of private solar and wind generation schemes in suitable areas.*

This should be sent to the Prime Minister, Karen Bradley MP, Rishi Sunak MP, George Eustice MP, Grant Shapps MP and any others that people felt were appropriate.

Councillor Salt fully supported this statement and approach. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) had refused to make amendments to new-build guidance in the Local Plan.

Councillor Yates noted that SMDC had missed opportunities to make a difference.

Councillor Harper proposed that the letter is also sent to SMDC and the County Council; Biddulph should lead and show others that 'we are up for it'. Seconded by Councillor Smith. Councillor Jackson also felt that these individuals and organisations should be asked for a reply.



It was agreed to send the letter to the Members of Parliament listed above and the two local authorities.

## **45. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE**

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

### **Expenditure between £5000 and £500**

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<b>D&amp;G</b>	£3383.60
93 Bus September 2021	
<b>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</b>	£2027.00
Businss Rates, Town Hall October 2021	
<b>Mazars</b>	£1560.00
Audit Fees	
<b>Broxap</b>	£1032.00
Bench for Dorset Drive	
<b>N &amp; J Tree Services Ltd</b>	£624.00
Burial Grounds Tree Surveys	
<b>Prism</b>	£534.37
IT Support and Licenses Sep-Oct 2021	

### **Expenditure below £500**

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<b>Grenke</b>	£439.67
Photocopier Lease 21/22 Q3	
<b>Ash Waste Services</b>	£414.80
Town Burial Ground Bins October 2021	
<b>Gary Smith's Electrical</b>	£332.00
Repair Toilet Door Slam Locks	
<b>Congleton Chronicle</b>	£300.00
Schools out for Summer Feature	

<b>Time Assured Limited</b> Clock Servicing St Lawrence's & The Roaches School	£262.00
<b>Prism</b> Office Landlines August 2021	£189.91
<b>Market Stall Contractors</b> Market Stall Erection November 2021	£180.00
<b>Congleton Chronicle</b> Notice of annual Town Meeting	£162.24
<b>NPower</b> Unmetered Christmas Lights Usage, Nov – Dec 2021	£160.65
<b>MC Janitorial</b> Cleaning Supplies	£158.41
<b>Myers &amp; Co</b> HR Advice Retainer	£150.00
<b>SPCA</b> Charitable Trusts Training	£150.00
<b>Congleton Chronicle</b> Tea with Biddulph TC advert	£149.76
<b>Congleton Chronicle</b> Caretaker Advert	£146.40
<b>Congleton Chronicle</b> Classic Vehicle Show Ad	£131.04
<b>K Wood</b> Window Cleaning August 2021	£114.00
<b>Fifteen Group</b> Wifi and 2 x Mobile Phones	£102.00

<b>Business Products</b>	£101.06
Photocopier Usage Sept 2021	
<b>Katelyn Ball</b>	£100.00
Volunteer Expenses, October 2021	
<b>NPower</b>	£160.65
Unmetered Christmas Lights Usage, Jan – Mar 2021	
<b>Brian Carter</b>	£80.00
Volunteer Expenses October 2021	
<b>Tidysite</b>	£68.10
Town Hall and Biddulph Grange Bins	
<b>Tidysite</b>	£64.50
Various Sites Bin Empties 13/09/2021	
<b>Tidysite</b>	£62.10
Town Hall Bins & VC Bins	
<b>NALC</b>	£60.00
Local Council Award Scheme Registration	
<b>SPCA</b>	£50.00
Explore Chairmanship Training	
<b>SP Services</b>	£49.40
First Aid Supplies	
<b>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</b>	£35.00
Fishing Ticket Sales Sept 2021	
<b>EOn Next</b>	£7.77
Electricity Christmas Lights Account	
<b>Credit Card Expenditure</b>	£1055.96
<b>GBP J S Trophies</b>	£126.10
Car Show Trophies	

<b>Amazon</b> Projector Equipment	£99.80
<b>ESE Direct</b> Grit Bin	£98.28
<b>Amazon</b> Stationery supplies	£90.77
<b>Amazon</b> Measuring Wheel, Wind Meter	£67.93
<b>Argos</b> Printer (Support Staffordshire)	£64.99
<b>Eventbrite</b> Training - Future Communities	£64.49
<b>Safety Signs</b> Sign fixings	£58.98
<b>SLCC Enterprise</b> Handbook and Training	£55.21
<b>Sainsbury's</b> Dementia Cinema	£55.20
<b>SP Services</b> First Aid Supplies	£49.40
<b>New Look</b> Coat for Burial Work	£39.99
<b>Amazon</b> Stationery	£34.87
<b>HSQE</b> Safeguarding Training	£30.00

<b>ESE Direct</b> Sign Posts	£26.16
<b>Decathlon</b> Wellies for Staff Work	£22.98
<b>High Beak Borough Council</b> Temporary Event Notice	£21.00
<b>Shutterstock</b> Subscription September 2021	£19.00
<b>Giffgaff</b> Caretaker Mobile	£8.00
<b>Giffgaff</b> Office Mobile Phone	£8.00
<b>Faebook</b> Advertising	£6.45
<b>Amazon</b> Film for Dementia Cinema	£5.99
<b>Amazon</b> Radar Key	£2.99

**b) To consider supplementary accounts**

D&G - July Invoice, 93 Bus	3,291.32
Sophia's Kitchen (training refreshments)	150.00
Sovereign - air conditioning repairs	1011.64
Staffordshire Pension Fund	5014.91
HMRC	3731.89
Salaries	12098.25
Hanley Print - dementia toilet signs	108.00
Biddulph in Bloom (second quarter grant)	6250.00
Protech (Christmas lights testing, replacements)	4898.40
Sarah Haydon (flowers)	30.00
SPCA - agendas and minutes training	40.00
Waterlogic	6.00
Tidysite (4/10/2021)	68.10
Moorlands Contract Janitorial Ltd	27.60
Moorlands Contract Cleaning Ltd	2493.95
Lengthsman - Rob Standell	310.00
Cash - Market team	180.00
Cash - Woodhouse Burial Ground volunteer	100.00
Cash - Wharf Road toilets volunteer	100.00
Petty Cash	19.89

It was proposed to approve all expenditure on-block by Councillor Harper;  
seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

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