

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT

- The Mayor - Councillor Rushton
- Deputy Mayor - Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor Lawton
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Swift
- Councillor Yates

47. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Staffordshire County Council Representative(s)**

Councillor Flunder said that Walk-In Centres for Covid vaccinations in Leek and Cheadle are in place.

The Community Fund has been extended until 26 November for community groups to apply for grants of up to £250.

Councillor Flunder invited Councillors to attend a meeting about the delivery of the transport strategy in January. The 'seats to ride' scheme is being cancelled and is being considered by the 'Prosperous' Committee meeting.

A new Action Fund for climate change is being announced providing grants of £250 - £500.

Councillor Garvey noted that the hedges on Woodhouse Lane have still not been trimmed, and requested an update. Councillor Flunder will follow this up with Councillor Lawson.

Councillor Rogers asked that the overnight diversion at the Aldi roundabout be monitored as it is an issue for large vehicles.

Councillor Salt asked for an update on Grange Road, and noted that two potholes have merged on the A527 near the turning to the tip; these have still not been resolved since January 2020.

Councillor Lawton queried Staffordshire's response to the 'Bus Back Better' documentation. He expressed concern that Biddulph Town Council has not been consulted about this and the Town Council is very keen to find support to extend the bus services within Biddulph. Councillor Jones said he too shared these concerns.

Councillor Yates noted that a sink hole previously reported near Bargain Booze on Tunstall Road is getting larger. He also said that a hedge close the Mow Lane and Halls Road junction is encroaching on the road, and restricting school children's access. Councillor Rogers confirmed that it is County Council land.

Councillor Jones also noted that there seems to be a large amount of roadworks where there does not appear to be work being undertaken, but causing significant travel disruption.

Councillor Flunder said that the County Council has no control over emergency work carried out by utility companies as they are automatically entitled to permits for such work.

Councillor Flunder noted that there are a number of surveys regarding general health and mental health, being run by the NHS.

Councillor Jones made Councillor Flunder aware of a petition that had been submitted to Biddulph Town Council regarding the crossroads at Lask Edge. The petition calls for Give Way signs to be replaced with Stop Signs. Councillor Flunder said that he has visited the site and is in support of the idea.

Councillor Jackson asked Councillor Flunder if he was aware of any plans regarding 'Integrated Care Hubs.' One is planned for Leek, and a representative

suggested Biddulph users could travel to Leek or the Haywood Hospital to use the service. Councillor Jackson said that he felt the resource was in place to offer an Integrated Care Hub in Biddulph and asked that Councillor Flunder support this. Councillor Flunder invited Councillor Jackson's involvement to follow this up.

- **Staffordshire Police**

The Chief Officer gave an update on behalf of Staffordshire Police. The Police have started to do drop-in sessions again, with the first taking place today at the Town Hall. There had been a good take up, and it is hoped that future sessions can continue to take place on the same day as the Town Council.

Councillor Jones said that he hadn't received phone numbers for the police in Biddulph. The Chief Officer said that some information has been received but there had been a change in staff so more information will be gathered later.

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for Councillor Sheldon and Councillor Harper.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- a) **Disclosable pecuniary interests and dispensations:** None declared.
- b) **Other interests:** None declared.

50. MINUTES

- a) **The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12 October 2021 were approved and signed.**

Councillor Jackson and Councillor Smith asked that the minutes be amended to reflect their presence at the meeting.

The minutes were moved by Councillor Hart, seconded by Councillor Jones; all in favour.

- b) **The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 12 October 2021 were received.**

Moved by Councillor Hart, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin; all voted in favour to receive the minutes.

Councillor Hart, Councillor Salt and Councillor Garvey asked that the minutes be amended to reflected their presence.

c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 November 2021 were received.

Moved by Councillor Hawley, seconded by Councillor Jones; all voted in favour to receive the minutes.

d) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 19 October 2021 were received.

Moved by Councillor McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor Jones, all voted in favour to receive the minutes.

51. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Rushton reminded all Councillors that she is arranging a Rock and Roll night on Saturday 20 November.

On Armistice Day, the Mayor will be at the Cenotaph at 11am, and invited other Councillors to join.

Councillor Rushton reminded Councillors of the Remembrance Sunday event. Councillor Salt sent her apologies for this event.

52. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

a) To receive an update on the Town Council's Covid pandemic response

The Chief Officer noted that flu and Covid vaccinations are continuing to take place at the Town Hall, and they appear to be well attended.

Councillor Smith asked if vaccinations had been rearranged for the Middle and High Schools. The Chief Officer said that she had not received an update but would follow up. Councillor Salt said that vaccinations had been rearranged for the High School, but parents are being encouraged to take their children to vaccination centres instead.

Councillor Rogers asked if Town Councillors could still be considered to volunteer for supporting the vaccinations; Councillor Jones said he believed there was a core team of volunteers that is being used but has reminded the doctors that Town Councillors are happy to volunteer.

b) To receive an update on the management of Biddulph Town Hall

Councillor Jones asked for an update on the Twinning mural. The Chief Officer said that the location of display in the foyer has been agreed and it is ready to be placed.

c) To receive an update on health and safety

The Chief Officer noted that staff had recently undertaken Fire Safety Training.

**53. STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL –
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Chief Officer shared the Statement of Principles that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had sent to the Town Council for consideration.

Councillor Perkin noted that there had not been any significant change from the previous statement, other than an update in legislation. Councillor Perkin moved to accept the document, Councillor Hawley seconded. All voted in favour.

**54. TO APPROVE A SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD
SCHEME**

The Chief Officer thanked the Customer Support Assistant who has put a lot of work into the Local Council Award Scheme submission.

Councillor Jackson said that he was impressed with the amount of work that had been put in. He suggested that more information be included about the financial contribution that the Town Council makes to services, such as the 93 bus.

Councillor Salt suggested that the website shares a link to the document regarding the Local Council Award Scheme submission.

Councillor Garvey proposed and Councillor Hart seconded to confirm the following:

1. This Council has **read** the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation (criteria 1-26), Quality (criteria 1-17) and Quality Gold (criteria 1- 2d) application and six statements.
2. This Council **confirms** it complies with the criteria set out for the Local Council Awards Scheme; which includes publication of certain documents and the holding of records/policies for the specified award.
3. This Council **approves** the submission of the application and six statements for the Local Council Award Scheme.

All voted in favour.

55. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

a) The following accounts to be paid in November 2021 were approved.

Expenditure between £500 and £5000

EON £3574.51
Highway Lighting Maintenance and Use 2021/22

D&G £3137.52
93 Bus October 2021

SJS Jukes Ltd £2380.80
Additional Plinth Garden of Remembrance

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

Prism £534.37
IT Support and Licensing November 2021

Ash Waste Services £517.38
Town Burial Ground Waste, November 2021

Expenditure less than £500

Business Products £403.99
October Photocopier Usage and Supplies

EIS £345.60
2D Lamps

Ignite Facilities LTd £330.00
Boiler Repairs as per quote 1565

Urban Vision £315.00
Planning Committee Training

Prism Office Landlines September 2021	£191.64
Market Stall Contractors Market Stall Erection Dec 2021	£180.00
Derbyshire County Council Emergency Lights Service Sept 2021	£167.94
Myers and Co HR Assist Nov - Dec 2021	£150.00
Ken Wood September 2021 Window Cleaning	£114.00
Fifteen Group Wifi October 2021	£102.00
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Lease of Land at Congleton Road, 21/22q3	£90.00
Tidysite Bin Empties 11/10 Various Sites	£85.20
Katelyn Ball Volunteer Expenses Nov 2021	£80.00
Brian Carter Volunteer Expenses Nov 2021	£80.00
Tidysite Bin Empties, 04/10 Various Sites	£68.10
Tidysite Bin Empties 25/10 Various Sites	£68.10

Tidysite Bin Empties 01/11 Various Sites	£68.10
Tidysite Bin Empties 18/10 Various Sites	£62.10
E.On Next Electricity Christmas Lights Account	£56.41
CA3 Studios Dimmer Pack Inspection (Stage Lighting)	£55.00
Moorland Contract Janitorial Cleaning Supplies	£41.04
SPCA Training - Freedom of Information	£30.00
SPCA Training - Social Media for Councillors	£30.00
Hanley Print Services Compliment Slips	£30.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Poppy Wreath	£25.00
Hanley Print Services Vinyl Stickers	£24.00

b) The following supplementary accounts were approved.

Expenditure Greater than £5000

Staff Salaries November 2021	£12120.13
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Expenditure Between £500 and £5000

Staffordshire Pension Fund £4845.69
Staff Pensions November 2021

HMRC £3579.91
Staff PAYE November 2021

Biddulph Lifeline £2000.00
Town Council Grant, Summer 2021/22

Staff Member £1387.14
Reissued August Salary Cheque

Prism £1340.53
Councillor IT Account set up

Moorland Contract Cleaning £1315.32
Bus Hub Cleans, October 2021

Moorland Contract Cleaning £1178.63
Visitor Centre Cleans, October 2021

Memsafe £600.00
Burial Ground Memorial Risk Assessment

R G Standell £580.00
Lengthsman Work October 21

Expenditure Below £500

Brian Webster Plumbing and Heating £325.00
Radiator Repair

Congleton Chronicle £199.68
Adverts: Small Business / Craft Fair, Dementia Cinema

Down to Earth £104.00
Wetland Plants

Tidysite £91.20
Bin Empties 08/11/2021

Waterplus £52.95
Bus Hub Water Costs - 30/07/20201 - 30/10/20210

Hanley Print Services £24.00
High Street Vouchers Printing

Water Logic £14.90
Water Cooler Rental and Service October 2021

Credit Card **£563.31**

Amazon £132.84
Mayors Event Supplies (Reimbursed by Mayor) and Kitchen
Supplies

Prism £120.00
Caretaker IT Set up

Allsigns £87.83
Dementia Friendly Signage

Amazon £78.80
Stationary

Royal Mail £66.00
Stamps

Amazon £27.84
Audio Equipment

Shutterstock £19.00
Subscription

Facebook £15.00

Adverts September 2021

Giffgaff £8.00
Caretaker Mobile Phone

Giffgaff £8.00
Office Mobile Phone

Petty Cash **£41.79**

Home Bargains £17.87
Kitchen Supplies

Snelsons £7.35
Key

Sainsbury's £6.00
Dishwasher Tablets

Home Bargains £6.07
Halloween Event

Sainsbury's £3.00
Cleaning Spray

Sainsbury's £1.50
Meeting Refreshments

Councillor Perkin moved to approve both sets of accounts and Councillor Hart seconded. All voted in favour.

The meeting ended at 6.50pm.

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

DRAFT