

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.**

PRESENT:

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor J I M Garvey (Chair)
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor K Jackson
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor N Yates

Councillors Eardley, Hopkins, Proudlove and Salt were in attendance but did not sign the attendance sheet.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance and Governance Officer
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer

Councillor Garvey recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

74. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor C Smith

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

None.

- b) Other Interests

Councillor Parkes declared an interest in item 82.

76. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2025

Proposed by Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Rogers. All **agreed**.

- b)** To **receive** the Notes of the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 25 February 2025

Proposed by Councillor Jackson; seconded by Councillor Harper. All **agreed**.

77. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE 'CHAIN REACTION' PROJECT

The Chief Officer reported that the Mayor will be launching a bike ride to London event, on 9th April 2025, from the Life Stream car park.

The Chief Officer tabled a poster in relation to the event taking place on Saturday 12th April, outside of the Biddulph Library 11am until 2pm.

The Chief Officer reported that Outside Arts have commissioned a Bicycle Ballet; there will also be free bike checks, and the Police will be in attendance completing security marking.

There was a discussion regarding how to extend this project in the future.

Councillor Rogers questioned whether anyone would like to donate to the Mayors Charity.

78. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer reported that the Woodland Trust have donated 2 boxes of woodland trees and community members have donated a variety of other trees.

The Chief Officer requested volunteers for Friday 21st March to plant the trees.

79. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY OF THINGS PROJECT

The Chief Officer reported that funding has been received from the County Council environmental grant scheme for the Library of Things. The funding needs to be spent by the end of June. The Chief Officer explained that the policies and procedures will be created.

It was proposed by Councillor Salt bring back future updates to the Town and Communities Committee; seconded by Councillor Harper. All **agreed**.

80. TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR HALLS ROAD RECREATION GROUND AND BIDDULPH VALLEY PARK (ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer stated that the Town Council are a consultee in relation to these plans.

It was agreed to respond that the Town Council look forward to engaging with the Move More scheme, including the football strategy. The Town Council is supportive of these documents.

81. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON AN EMERGING VETERANS EVENT IN BIDDULPH

The Chief Officer reported that during a previous Town Council meeting it was agreed to meet with Councillor Cawley to discuss a date to host the event, the 7th October has been provisionally booked.

Councillor Salt questioned whether any local mental health providers will be in attendance.

82. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN'S MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDERS AND TO AGREE THE NEXT STEPS

The Chief Officer reported that both Ms Hancock and she have passed the level 3 mental health first aid training, which means that they are now mental health supervisors. There will be a meeting for all mental health first aiders to come together and share experiences and create a strategy moving forward.

It was discussed whether to provide future funding to provide this training again.

Councillor Salt suggested creating a Microsoft form to gain feedback from the mental health first aiders.

83. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A TOURISM/ TOWN ITINERARIES MEETING ATTENDED WITH OTHER TOWN COUNCILS AND STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chief Officer reported that she attended a meeting about itineraries, which became a wider discussion around tourism; this was a much wider remit than she first thought.

She wondered whether it might be sensible to postpone the creation of a Tourism Working Group, as had been discussed previously. This new group may prove to be a helpful resource.

It was **received**.

There was a discussion about creating a motorhome and caravanning park-up.

84. TO AGREE A COURSE OF ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE OWNERSHIP AND INSURANCE OF THE CENOTAPH

The Chief Officer tabled the guidance note from the Society of Local Council Clerks in relation to the management of war memorials. She explained that the County Council are responsible for the land underneath the war memorial.

It was discussed whether to adopt the cenotaph and take ownership.

Councillor Salt proposed to formerly take over the land (including the area around the memorial); seconded by Councillor Proudlove. All **agreed**.

There was discussion about the church war memorial; the Chief Officer would investigate ownership.

The meeting closed at 7.31pm.

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