

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.**

PRESENT:

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

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 K Jackson substitute for Councillor Parkes

The Mayor, Councillor Lawton, recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

Councillor Jackson; seconded by Smith all agreed.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor A Parkes substitute Councillor Jackson
- Councillor J Garvey
- Councillor K Harper

2. ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

The Mayor called for nominations for the Chair. Councillor Smith nominated Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. There were no other nominations; all agreed.

Councillor Salt called for nominations for Deputy Chair. Councillor Rogers nominated Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Redfern. There were no other nominations; all agreed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

Nothing to declare.

- b) Other Interests

Nothing to declare.

4. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2025

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

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Events Working Group meeting held on 28 April 2025

They were **received**.

- c) To **receive** the Notes of the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 4 June 2025

They were **received**.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE 'CHAIN REACTION' PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION

The Chief Officer noted that there are a number of community groups involved in the Chain Reaction project. She reported that the group had been discussing several different events in relation to bicycles.

The Chief Officer explained that there is a grant available through Cycling UK: 'the big bike revival'. She stated that within the grant stipulations you can have a variety of events, and it was possible to request up to £3,500 per application.

The Chief Officer queried whether Councillors would be happy for the Town Council to apply for the funding, on behalf of the wider group. There would be events in Biddulph and in Cheadle; the costs associated would be consumables, room hire and refreshments. It was also discussed that there would also be women's event.

The Chief Officer explained that the deadline is 14 July for applications to be submitted.

Councillor Smith questioned whether a bike puncture station should be installed as part of this grant. The Chief Officer explained that this would not fit into this grant, but it is something that future grants could be used for. There had been consideration of installing one of these stations at the Town Hall.

It was proposed by Councillor Smith to submit an application; seconded by Councillor Yates. All **agreed**.

As an addition, Councillor Smith questioned whether there are any aspirations to incorporate an event to involve those with disabilities. It was proposed by Councillor Salt to look for a grant to support this idea; seconded by Councillor Yates. All **agreed**.

6. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SALT: TO AGREE THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MANIFESTO AND CHECKLIST

Councillor Salt explained that in 2019, the Town Council agreed to work towards making Biddulph a 'mental health friendly town', and covid happened therefore it could be moved forward. After covid, the Town Council progressed this idea further and decided to fund the training of community volunteers to become Mental Health First Aiders. This project went through a tendering process and the contract was awarded to 'Taking Off The Mask'. As a result of Councillor Parkes' involvement in this charity and his expertise, he has delivered fantastic training to 60 volunteers.

Councillor Salt proposed that officers draw up objectives with regards to disability, neurodiversity and mental health, and requested that Councillors from this committee, endorse this.

Councillor Salt suggested;

- Promoting Neurodiverse training.
- Consideration at every event regarding whether we are disability friendly.
- A sticker identifying mental health first aiders.
- Promoting SEND events by partners.
- Hosting SEND only events.
- The installation of a 'Happy to Chat' bench.

The Chief Officer explained that herself and Jodie Hancock are qualified to level 3, which is supervisor level of mental health first aid. As part of this work, a meeting took place at the Town Hall with new first aiders. The group was keen to look at where the gaps are within the town; a questionnaire was developed, which could help to support the objectives identified as part of this process.

Councillor Rogers questioned whether 'Taking Off The Mask' would be involved in further training. There would be a further tender process, if more training was completed.

Councillor Jackson questioned whether there is a capacity within the staff. The Chief Officer advised that there was no capacity for additional projects before the summer break.

It was proposed by Councillor Smith to draw together these objectives; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All **agreed**.

7. TO CONSIDER MAKING REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE RETURN OF A POST BOX IN KNYBERSLEY

The Chief Officer reported that when the post box was initially removed, representations had been made to return this to the site, or location nearby. This had not proved to be successful.

Councillor Yates stated that it needs to be placed in a safe place, but supports making representations regarding the return of a post box.

Councillor Smith noted that a movable post box was situated in a Tesco; there may be other options.

Proposed by Councillor Redfern to make further representations; seconded by Councillor Yates, **agreed**.

8. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON A SURVEY OF TOWN CENTRE BOLLARDS

Councillor Lawton stated that he recently completed an inventory of the town centre bollards; he noted that there were many which required repairs.

Councillor Salt questioned who owns the bollards. It was discussed that the County Council are responsible for them.

It was agreed to report issues to the County Council. Proposed by Councillor Proudlove; seconded by Councillor Smith. All **agreed**.

The meeting closed at 7.27pm.

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