

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

PRESENT:

- Councillor Y Case
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor K Jackson (Substitute)
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C Lawton
- 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)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance and Governance Officer

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

43. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor A Parkes – Substituted by Councillor K Jackson
- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor D Proudlove (Absent)

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations. None.

b) Other Interests

Councillor Case declared an interest in item 46d.

45. MINUTES

a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 October 2025

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Minutes-Town-and-Community-21-October-Draft-inc-confid.pdf>

The minutes were signed. All **agreed**.

- b) To **receive** the Notes of the Events Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2025

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Events-Working-Group-Notes-October-2025.pdf>

Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Yates. The notes were **received**.

- c) To **receive** the Notes of the Events Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2025

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Events-Working-Group-Notes-November-2025.pdf>

Proposed by Councillor Rogers; seconded by Councillor Garvey. The notes were **received**.

- d) To **receive** the Notes from the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2025

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Notes-BWT-Meeting-5-November-2025-DRAFT.pdf>

Proposed by Councillor Jackson; seconded by Councillor Garvey. The notes were **received**.

46. EVENTS UPDATE:

a) To confirm content for the Business Breakfast

The Chief Officer reported a business meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 December, 8am to 10am - at which breakfast will be provided. This has been advertised on social media, Biddulph Times and Biddulph Chronicle. The Chief Officer asked for volunteers to distribute invites to businesses; a number of councillors volunteered. Councillors were also asked to attend the event. This is an opportunity to get people together and discuss any issues.

Councillor Salt suggested inviting the deputy lieutenant to a future business meeting.

Councillor Smith suggested inviting PCSO's.

Councillor Smith asked that email addresses of attendees should be collected to enable future communications.

b) Consideration of the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event(s)

The Events and Partnerships Officer reported that the Christmas Lights Switch on in the town centre will take place on 29 November 2025. All activities planned for the event were in place.

Councillor Smith wondered whether a space could be provided for children with sensory issues. Councillor Salt noted that the issue with this previously had been lack of volunteers specifically for this space.

Councillor Smith agreed to volunteer, and to try and recruit others.

It was noted that the Council Chamber has to be dark, so that the lights in the High Street are impactful.

The Events and Partnerships Officer asked councillors to confirm what times they're available to volunteer.

c) Update on the Family Party as part of the Biddulph Works Together partnership

The Chief Officer reported that a Family Party will take place on Saturday 13 December, working with the Family Hub. Families will need to book in; this would take place around lunchtime. Councillor Salt volunteered to support the event.

Councillor Smith asked if volunteers were required to sort our Toy Appeal – on Tuesday 9 December – allocating toys to children. The Chief Officer agreed that this would be helpful, around mid-morning.

Councillor Yates confirmed the Labour Group would donate £250.00 to the Toy Appeal.

d) Update on the Chinese New Year event

The Chief Officer explained the second Chinese New Year event would take place on 14 February 2026, 11am to 2pm. UK Shared Prosperity Funding had been received for this, and it was hoped that Outside would also provide some support.

The Events and Partnerships Officer confirmed Chinese Lion Dancers and Umbrella Dance had been booked. Manchester University would demonstrate Chinese calligraphy. There would be craft and food, and Pom Pom the Panda.

47. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWNS TOURISM MEETING FACILITATED BY STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL (PRESENTATION ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer advised she and the Events and Partnerships Officer attended the meetings on a regular basis. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) has used UK Shared Prosperity Funding to monitor footfall. There was consideration of this data.

There is now a project to increase the number of accommodation options available. There was discussion about the number of visitor attractions available in the town.

48. ITEM REFERRED FROM TOWN COUNCIL- TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY CONSULTATION:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/whatson/Updates/Library-Service-Updates.aspx>

The Chief Officer encouraged councillors to complete the questionnaire and also suggested the Town Council could write to Staffordshire County Council to express concerns.

Councillor Yates was concerned about the subtext with this. The Library is a community hub in Biddulph; the Town Council needs to champion this community asset.

Councillor Jackson confirmed he'd completed the questionnaire and felt the questions are loaded. Volunteers are needed throughout the town- there are not enough to run the library too.

Councillor Lawton encouraged Councillors to make it clear that it's Biddulph Library that they were referring to in the questionnaire.

Councillor Redfern noted the important support that is provided regarding bus passes, for example. The community appreciates the advice they give.

The Chief Officer would complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Town Council as a whole.

49. ITEM REFERRED FROM TOWN COUNCIL- TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT PROPOSAL TO CHANGE PCSO WORKING HOURS:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c397jjx4px2o> (PLEASE NOTE, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM PCSO REPRESENTATIVES)

Councillor Jackson had raised this issue at the Town Council meeting. Councillor Jackson was against the cutting of hours; he could not see it as an improvement in service.

Information had not been received from the PCSOs (or their representatives) as yet.

Councillor Rogers thought this was a problem for the community.

Councillor Yates felt the data needed to be scrutinised; Proposed by Councillor Yates, seconded by Councillor Garvey, all agreed to submit a Freedom of Information request in

relation to the data used to come to this position (if this was not already available publicly).

Councillors Salt proposed writing a Town Council letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner to highlight our concerns. Councillor Yates stated it was important to request reassurance. This was agreed. Councillor Gledhill from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council would be copied into this response.

50. TO CONSIDER PROJECTS FOR 2026/27 AND POTENTIAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

The Chief Officer queried whether there were any priorities for the Town Council in the 2026/27 period.

Councillor Yates wanted to progress with the Changing Places facility on Wharf Road car park. He also hoped to activate the Bus Hub, making this useable for the public.

Councillor Smith had ideas for events: women's history month is March, and the Town Council should support international women's day 2026. 2nd April is autism awareness day.

Councillor Rogers would like to progress with the town centre pedestrianisation project, including making South View one-way.

Councillor Salt would like to make an all-terrain buggy available for hire at the Country Park.

Councillor Smith would like to make adapted bikes available as part of the Chain Reaction project, like Green Door at Westport Lake.

Councillor Kisicki would like to do more around the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

The Chief Officer noted that there is a small environmental team at the County Council; they could do some work.

Councillor Redfern wondered whether some funds should be provided for the Library of Things, in case replacement items were needed.

Councillors were encouraged to raise any other ideas with the Chief Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded.

51. TO APPROVE PROCESSES FOR THE LIBRARY OF THINGS PROJECT

The Chief Officer advised the project has been formally signed off by the County Council. The coming months would involve testing the processes. Within the documentation,

there was mention of making the Library of Things available within ‘the surrounding areas’. Further clarity was needed as to what this area is.

There was a discussion which resulted in a proposal from Councillor Redfern: Biddulph and within 3 miles of the boundary, at the Chief Officer’s discretion; seconded by Councillor Yates and **agreed**.

Councillor Smith suggested the Library of Things should have its own Facebook presence. The Chief Officer would investigate the logistics of managing this.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

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