

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026, 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 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
- Mrs. Angela Williams – Administration Officer

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

59. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor N Eardley (Absent)
- Councillor A K Harper (Absent)
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor D Proudlove (Absent)

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

None.

- b) Other Interests

Councillors Salt and Smith declared an interest in Item 67.

Councillor Salt declared an interest in item 64.

61. MINUTES

To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 January 2026

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Minutes-Town-and-Community-20-January-2026-Draft-NO-confid.pdf>

Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Smith. All **agreed**.

62. TO CONFIRM DATES FOR 2026 EVENTS (TO BE TABLED)

Councillor Case delivered a short speech expressing thanks to the Council and the wider community for their efforts in delivering a successful event on behalf of the Chinese Fellowship.

Councillor Garvey also extended his thanks to the Chinese community and Fellowship for their contribution.

The Chief Officer tabled a list of upcoming events, for information.

Councillor Salt enquired whether a date had been set for a SEND cinema screening. The Chief Officer advised that the team are looking for appropriate partnerships. This might be part of a programme with the Family Hub and County Council's Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Discussion took place regarding significant anniversaries and events to be noted and commemorated during the year, including:

- Royal British Legion – 15 years since the conflict in Iraq
- 110 years since the Battle of the Somme
- 40 years of Twinning in 2027
- Operation Candlelight – relating to Commonwealth Graves

Councillor Garvey reported that the recent 'Board in Biddulph' event was a 'roaring success' and that organisers are looking forward to the next session. He gave thanks to the volunteers.

Councillor Salt requested a monthly breakdown of the events budget for further consideration. The dates for events are being agreed, the Chief Officer will then provide this breakdown.

63. TO CONFIRM THE PROCESS FOR CIVIC AWARDS SHORTLISTING AND AGREE THOSE WHO WILL GIVE AWARDS AT THE EVENT ON 28 FEBRUARY

The Chief Officer reported that invitations for the Civic Awards have been issued. She advised that the shortlisting process will need to take place and requested volunteers to form a panel.

Councillors Smith, Salt, Garvey, and Lawton volunteered to serve on the shortlisting panel.

64. TO CONFIRM PROPOSED ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE KNOW YOUR PLACE PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Chief Officer reported on the participatory action research project being delivered in partnership with SCVYS and Staffordshire University. The project is led by young people and seeks to understand their perceptions of Biddulph, including what they would change if they were in charge for the day.

It was noted that the research findings are currently being compiled into a report. Phase one of the project was funded, and following completion of the report, the initiative will move into the next stage titled 'Change Your Place'; there is further funding for this stage too.

This next phase may involve establishing a group of young people, potentially a Youth Council, to develop an action plan based on the research outcomes. Potential partnership work with the High School was also discussed.

Separately, the Chief Officer explained that reestablishing a Young People's Working Group (for professionals) has been a long-standing aspiration.

It was agreed to continue with the completion of the report and progress to the next stage of the project.

One abstention was recorded.

65. TO CONSIDER BOOK RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Councillor Salt and the Chief Officer referred to the chapter in a book they are due to publish on 19th May, and discussed whether a book signing event would be appropriate to mark the occasion.

Councillor Smith noted the popularity of 'The Book Stop' penguin located on the Biddulph Moor village green, which is widely used by the community. Councillor Salt also suggested celebrating the book stall at Sainsbury's as part of the Year of Reading activities.

The Chief Officer reported that Jodie has suggested that staff and Councillors dress up for World Book Day.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of creating the bus hub as a temporary book reading and swap hub.

Councillor Smith suggested that the Town Crier could host storytelling sessions for young people, and Councillor Case noted that a book swap also takes place at the Methodist Church.

It was agreed to add a line to email signatures noting which book each individual is currently reading, in support of the initiative.

There was further discussion about inviting local authors to conduct book signings, including Councillor Proudlove, Janice Dean, and Holly.

Councillor Yates suggested that support for these activities could be considered through the New and Now Fund.

It was also noted, in relation to the Festival of Brilliant, that there should be activities aimed at adults and older young people, in addition to those for children.

66. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MARKET ACTIVITY ON THE TOWN HALL FRONTAGE

The Chief Officer reported that a group of traders had requested space on the Town Hall frontage to sell products. She advised that the first Fresh Food Friday was well attended, with the 'pie man', fish van and plant stall participating.

Members discussed potential additional stallholders, including a cake stall, mushrooms, 'Made in Biddulph' stall, and other craft or food stalls. Suggestions were also made for a tea/soup stall as part of Biddulph Works Together project, a Councillor stall, and a Police stall. A need for fruit and vegetables was highlighted.

Councillor Salt suggested working in partnership with The Zone to provide fruit, vegetables, and bread.

Councillor Rogers noted that stalls should operate on a pitch-only basis, bringing their own gazebo or table.

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.

67. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL WORK WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS

There was a discussion relating to the potential benefits of strengthening this partnership and noted the positive opportunities it could create for young people and local businesses.

The update was **received**.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.

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