

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.**

PRESENT:

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

Councillor Garvey attended the meeting, but did not sign the attendance sheet.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The meeting was not recorded due to technical issues.

68. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor J Salt

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) Other Interests: None.

70. MINUTES

To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17 February 2026.

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Minutes-Town-and-Community-17-February-2026-Draft-no-confid.pdf>

Proposed by Councillor Smith; seconded by Councillor Yates. All agreed.

71. TO RECEIVE THE CHANGE YOUR PLACE ACTION PLAN (ATTACHED)

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/KYP-Action-Plan.pdf>

The Chief Officer reported on the Know Your Place project with young people. The council had received £2,000 funding and had engaged with nearly 200 young people in the town.

The next stage is the Change Your Place project, which the council would receive £3,000 funding to complete. It builds on the findings from the Know your Place element.

Key milestones are being documented, with the focus of this phase on creating a Youth Council in partnership with Biddulph High School. The aim is to develop an action plan and provide updates to the committee.

The Chief Officer noted the aspiration to create a safe and welcoming space in the town centre for young people. While the £3,000 budget is insufficient to establish such a space, it will support feasibility work. She plans to meet with Sainsburys regarding the use of the units at the front, potentially as a youth space. The initiative may also help manage anti-social behaviour. The proposed timeframe is to report on progress by July, with a view to a longer-term action plan and project development.

Councillor Redfern expressed support in principle but highlighted lessons from history. About 20 years ago, a café/advice centre for young people had launched successfully but proved unsustainable due to volunteer attrition, disruptive behaviour from some users, and financial challenges. Councillor Redfern stressed the importance of planning for governance, operational costs, and long-term sustainability, including consideration of salaried staff.

The Chief Officer agreed, noting that youth services in the town have long relied on underfunded voluntary organisations. The Zone currently lacks sufficient funding, and a council-supported project could provide greater sustainability and resources.

Councillor Smith suggested using the bus hub, with internet access and vending machines, as a base for detached youth work to keep young people safe and warm.

The Chief Officer clarified that the bus hub is undergoing an improvement programme with real time travel information, and will continue to function primarily as a bus hub.

Councillor Case offered potential support from the Methodist Church.

The action plan was received.

72. TO RECEIVE THE REVISED DEMENTIA PLAN (ATTACHED)

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Dementia-Action-Plan-March-2026-TCC-Version.pdf>

Councillor Smith proposed that the committee accept the plan and proceed with its implementation, noting that additional councillors had joined since the previous dementia-friendly training and suggesting that it be repeated.

The Chief Officer reiterated that the training could not be delivered under the original model. The delivery now requires signing up to collect funds on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society – which the Town Council is unable to do. A suitable alternative has not yet been identified..

Councillor Garvey suggested developing a neurodiversity action plan, to compliment this document. The Chief Officer was considering this, alongside other health and wellbeing activities.

The action plan was received.

73. TO RECEIVE THE UPDATED ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN (ATTACHED)

<https://biddulph.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Environment-Action-Plan-Update-March-2026.pdf>

The action plan was received.

74. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE CHAIN REACTION PROJECT

The Chief Officer provided an update on the Chain Reaction project.

Another pre-loved bike sale had taken place, and it was very positive. It was more popular than the first, with many families and children attending. The funds raised were to be split between two projects; approximately £350 had been given to the Town Council to support Chain Reaction projects in the town. Four pre-loved bike sales have been scheduled this year, with the next event on the 6 June 2026.

The Chief Officer noted that the group is considering joining the Moorlands Green Network and will provide a further update to the committee.

Other planned activities include a Ride the Lights event in October.

She advised that the Zone had received a small grant for a fix and ride project to train young people in bike repairs.

Town Council staff are also working with the library regarding the National Year of Reading project and are looking to combine books and bikes with a family bike ride, picnic and bear hunt.

The Zone are hosting a Sustainability Day on the 27 June.

The Repair Café continues to offer bike repairs in partnership with Moorlands Climate Action.

Overall, feedback has been positive, and different agencies are working together effectively.

Councillor Smith recalled a previous ambition – to establish a bike repair station in Biddulph and enquired about funding opportunities. She also suggested a project linking bikes and books to encourage connectivity along routes such as Biddulph to Stoke and potentially via Congleton along the Biddulph Valley Way.

The Chief Officer noted that obtaining permission for a bike shelter, partly on Highways land and partly on B&M land, has been challenging. She had asked whether UK Shared Prosperity funding could be used to establish a bike repair station, rather than a bike shelter to meet the funding deadline. She was awaiting this feedback.

Councillor Yates highlighted the need for additional signage for existing bike shelters in the town. He was impressed by the turnout at the pre-loved bike sale, noting that small bikes were plentiful but adult bikes ran out quickly.

The update was received.

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.

75. TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE YOUTH ACTIVITY

The Chief Officer reported on antisocial behaviour in the town centre.

The update was received.

76. TO CONSIDER CCTV PROVISION AT STATION ROAD

The Chief Officer reported on progress with CCTV provision.

The update was received.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

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