

**NOTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BIDDULPH
TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026, 6PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **The Mayor:**
Councillor C Smith
- **Deputy Mayor**
Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor N Lawton
- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor D J Hawley
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor N R Yates

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Margaret Warman – Governance and Compliance Officer
- 4 members of the public

1. Apologies

- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor C Wood
- Councillor S Fletcher

Councillor Jones recited a proclamation written by the Town Crier to celebrate Sarah Haydon, the Chief Officer's, ten years of service with Biddulph Town Council.

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

2. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2025

Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Garvey. The minutes were **confirmed**.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report and achievements from 2025-26 by the Mayor of Biddulph

The Mayor summarised the Annual Report and achievements from 2025-2026. The Annual Report was circulated to attendees.

4. Presentation on Town Council current areas of work

Finance Strategy and Management Committee

Councillor Rogers noted the following points regarding the work of the Committee.

Highlights were:

- Successful 2024-25 audit
- Committed to working towards signing the modern slavery charter
- Committed to working in partnership as part of the Transforming the Trent Headwaters partnership
- Managed the development of the Town Hall frontage development
- Anticipated the development of the new Garden of Remembrance
- Approved quotations for the effective management of the Town Hall and other assets
- Completed a Councillor skills audit and agreed an approach to Councillor training
- Reviewed policies and procedures
- Considered the long-term lease for the Country Park Visitor Centre
- Allocated £57,000 grants to community organisations
- Supported the request for match funding for the Moorlands Partnership Board grant application for the repair of the cenotaph railings
- Approved payments for the Biddulph Works Together programme
- Approved new logos for Biddulph Works Together and the Library of Things
- Approved the six-month review of the Town Council action plan
- Confirmed recruitment and staffing requirements
- Approved tenders for the management of the Town Hall bar and maintenance of the burial grounds
- Approved a new asset management programme
- Approved fees, charges and budget requirements
- Approved a new auditor, VAT requirements and considered the new Assertion 10 requirements
- Consider energy usage
- Considered the new 'What does good look like' document.

Councillor Rogers gave thanks to staff and councillors for the hard work throughout the year.

Recreation and Amenities Committee

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jones, noted the following points regarding the work of the Committee. The Committee has:

- Provided a regularly updated jobs list for the lengthsman
- Approved the revised Burial Policy
- Overseen the Burial Grounds, which were awarded 'Best New Entry' and a silver award in the 'Parish Town and Community Council' category at the Cemetery of the Year awards.

- Considered locations for tree planting
- Developed a specification for the new Garden of Remembrance at the Woodhouse Burial Ground
- Considered bus service, shelter and bus hub developments
- Worked with the Moorlands Partnership Board to repair damaged memorials in the churchyard
- Responded to Highways consultations
- Considered Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for the development at Woodhouse Lane
- Supported allotment holders and held an annual meeting
- Developed a walks booklet in partnership with the Biddulph Ramblers
- Considered traffic calming measures in Biddulph East.

Councillor Jones gave thanks for the hard work of the committee.

Planning Committee

Councillor Garvey explained that the Planning Committee is not a statutory body, but an important consultee.

It was noted that:

- 62 new planning applications and 3 appeals had been considered, guided by the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The Neighbourhood Plan continues to be used to meet the planning requirements for the town.

Councillor Garvey also expressed thanks to the committee members for their work and support.

Town and Committee

Councillor Salt stated that it was a privilege to have led such an innovative committee, full of members with plenty of ideas. She gave thanks to the staff and volunteers.

Councillor Salt reported the highlights of the committee

- The new Town Square
- Volunteer thank you event
- VE day 80
- Biddulph Works Together
- Library of Things
- Volunteer Recognition
- Community Cinema

Councillor Salt stated that the Committee strives to be original, have the best interests of residents at the centre and bring joy to all.

5. Report on the recipients of community grants

The Chief Officer reported that many Biddulph community groups have received funding this year, equating to £57,000. It has been a very positive experience for the Town Council, and it had been a pleasure to celebrate with them at both the Volunteer Thank You event and the 60th anniversary of the Town Hall.

The Chief Officer reported that the list of grant recipients will be published on the website.

6. Open Forum- To discuss any other issues raised by any elector present.

The Mayor recited 3 questions received via email:

1. Young people causing issues
2. Halls Road and congestion
3. Halls Road traffic calming measurers

Councillor Rogers reported that traffic calming measurers are currently being installed.

Councillor Smith noted that Halls Road playing fields do not fall under the Town Council.

Councillor Jones reported that young people causing issues is a policing issue, often reported at Town Council.

Councillor Salt noted that the youth provision around the town is significant and listed some of the many groups around Biddulph. A small number of young people are causing the issues. Biddulph Town Council fund many of the youth projects.

Councillor Salt had spoken at the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council meeting in relation to the proposed cut in PCSO hours; this could be raised again at the Town Council. The Know Your Place project is working to create projects designed by Young People.

One member of the public present questioned whether there would be more traffic calming measures around the town. Councillor Yates confirmed that it is a county council responsibility, and hoped to get an update from County Councillors.

John Robinson (Town Crier) had sent a note to advise attendees that the British Championships for Town Criers would be held in Biddulph in August.

The Meeting ended at 7.02pm

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