MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Y Case
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor N Yates (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance and Governance Officer
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnership Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor A C Lawton

Councillor Yates recited the meeting disclaimer.

20. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor C Smith
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor J Jones

Councillor Jackson Substitute for Councillor Proudlove.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations
Nothing to declare.

b) Other Interests
Nothing to declare.

22. MINUTES

To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2026

Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Salt. All agreed.

23. TO CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP OF SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE (EMAIL ATTACHED)

It was discussed that being a member would be beneficial.

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

24. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

The Chief Officer noted that she recently attended a meeting with Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, to discuss the Town Council's approach with businesses. This had been very positive. An event is being hosted on 24 September for rural businesses, offering support with finances and any other information required. The Chambers also hoped to trial a business hub within the Town Hall, a drop in session once a month, with business advisors..

The Town Council's Business Breakfast will take place on 15th October at the Town Hall.

The Chief Officer had put together a letter for businesses with all these dates. She asked for Councillors' support to distribute these.

There was a discussion regarding whether it would be possible to support businesses to access the funds that were held by the previous Biddulph Business Chamber; this involved discussions with the bank.

Councillor Garvey questioned whether there was still a business directory; the Chief Officer reported that the Town Council website holds an up to date list of businesses.

The update was **received.**

25. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A COOPERATIVE COUNCILS PROPOSAL

The Chief Officer reported that the Town Council had been a member of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN) for a couple of years, as an associate member. The Town Council had been approached by Glastonbury Town Council who would like to create a policy lab. The Project is to help Parish councils understand the principles of cooperative working.

The Chief Officer reported that the team from Glastonbury would like to meet the Town Council on 19th October, and requested that Councillors attend if they can.

The update was **received.**

26. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CHAIN REACTION PROJECTS

The Chief Officer tabled the 'Ride the Lights' poster, which noted the various dates for bike related events.

Councillor Yates stated that the Biddulph Valley Way requires maintenance and expressed his concern regarding how safe it is to ride down there, particularly at night.

Councillor Salt stated that attendees at the opening of the pump track had requested support with setting up a mountain biking club. Councillor Salt noted that the Biddulph Youth and Community Zone is keen to support this, but funding is required to facilitate this. It was agreed to contact the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to request funds.

Councillor Yates noted the importance of ensuring safe mountain bike trails are available.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would look into other mountain bike clubs, and what's involved in setting them up.

27. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON EMERGING MEN SHED IDEAS

The Chief Officer tabled the poster which provided information on the forthcoming 'Men who Make' activities, which is a project funded by Outside Arts for the first 6 weeks.

The idea beyond this is that the sessions will continue into the spring and this will then provide a basis for establishing a Men Shed. The Town council would need to apply for funding to support the sessions in the new year.

Councillor Garvey felt this was an excellent idea, and supported the long term aspirations and progressing with grant applications. All **agreed**.

There was discussion about the role of the Library of Things and the U3A.

The update was **received.**

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Signed……. Date……