MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.

PRESENT:

- **Deputy Mayor**

Councillor J Jones

- Councillor Y Case
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor AK Harper
- Councillor M Hopkins
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- 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 Yates recited the meeting disclaimer.

28. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor C Smith
- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor C Kisicki (Absent)

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None

b) Other Interests: Councillor Case declared an interest in item 38.

30. MINUTES

To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2026

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

DRAFT

31. TO CONFIRM THAT AN EVENTS WORKING GROUP WILL MEET ON TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER AT 4PM

It was **confirmed.**

32. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE EMERGING WORK WITH GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL ON A COOPERATIVE COUNCILS PROPOSAL

The Chief Officer explained that Glastonbury Town Council visited the Town Council. There were four representatives, they discussed a potential collaboration in relation to cooperative and resilience. It was noted that the meeting was very positive; the group had realised there is a lot in common between the two town councils.

It was **received.**

33. TO CONSIDER THE CONTENT OF 'BIDDULPH PREPARED' TRAINING SESSIONS, PART OF THE YOUTH WORK AND BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER INITIATIVES (BRIEFING ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer explained that there had been a number of discussions about the provision of skills sessions for people within the community. The document considered the sessions that could be included. The Chief Officer noted the next step is to try to find organisations to help deliver the modules, whether that be in person or a recording presentation.

There was consideration about future accreditation, and the potential for certificates to be issued. The skills team at the County Council may be able to provide advice.

Councillor Harper wondered whether computer skills could be included; this could be added to section 8.

Proposed to progress this by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. All **agreed**.

DRAFT

34. TO DISCUSS THE CREATION OF A MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB AND ANY SUPPORT AVAILABLE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL (BRIEFING ATTACHED)

Councillor Salt had requested that a club be developed after attending meetings in relation to the pump track. The Chief Officer had worked up a proposal based on this.

Councillor Salt advised that the next step was to take this to the District Council for their involvement. She was happy to collect data from those who visited the pump track. Qualified leaders would be needed, and seed funding would be required to fund the qualifications.

Proposed by Councillor Proudlove; seconded by Councillor Harper and **agreed**.

35. TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION DELIVERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL IN RELATION TO TOURISM (ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer presented the tourism update provided by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, which noted comparisons between the towns regarding visitor numbers.

The Chief Officer reported that there are new tourism leaflets and the District Council team are working on itineraries for those visiting the area.

It was **received**.

36. TO CONSIDER THE TOWN CENTRE FOOTFALL REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL (ATTACHED) AND TO CONFIRM THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS

The Chief Officer noted that this report can be bespoke, as required; she queried whether Councillor had any additional requirements.

The list of recommendations were listed on the back of the report:

Recommended next steps

1. Adopt 2025 as a formal baseline and continue monthly monitoring through 2026.
2. Obtain, where available, Place Informatics measures for dwell time, visitor origin/catchment, movement patterns and spend.
3. Analyse footfall on key Biddulph event days against comparable non-event days.

DRAFT

4. Map footfall against the retail core, public spaces, transport hubs and major destinations where more granular data is available.
5. Combine footfall with vacancy rates, business feedback and town-centre investment to create a wider town-centre health dashboard.
6. Use the summer and early autumn period as a specific area for experimentation and evaluation.
7. Repeat this analysis annually to measure the effect of town-centre projects and policy changes.

Proposed by Councillor Proudlove to move forward with the recommendations; seconded by Councillor Redfern. All **agreed**.

37. TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING (HANDOUT ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer discussed the People's Emergency Briefing; a showing was hosted by the Town Council. There were a number of recommendations following the showing, including writing to the Member of Parliament.

It was proposed by Councillor Lawton to host another screening, and encourage all Councillors to attend; seconded by Councillor Jones. All **agreed**.

38. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE EMERGING CHAPLAINCY PROJECT

The Chief Officer explained that the emerging Chaplaincy project for the town had requested the use of a room when the sessions were taking place.

Councillor Case declared an interest as this is part of her ministry work; the project is supervised by the Churches Together team. This is a ministry of presence, offering a listening ear and helping hand; it is not counselling. The project is called 'Biddulph Town Chaplaincy'.

It was discussed that the Town Council should support this, however, the team should be multi-faith, where possible. It was agreed this was a very positive project.
Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Salt. All **agreed**.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signed……. Date……

DRAFT