

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Adams, Baddeley, Betts, Deane, Deaville, Hall, Harris, J Harrison, Jones, Shaw, Sheldon and Walley.

Also in attendance Councillors Davies, Hart and Redfern.

63.07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were given and reasons accepted by The Mayor, Councillors Gibson, K Harrison and Jackson.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared at the beginning of the meeting

65. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2007 were approved and signed.

66. TOWN BURIAL GROUND

Councillor Adams gave a brief report of the meeting held on 17 September 2007. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Hart, who has donated a kissing gate (a product of the Heath ironworks).

67. TOURISM SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2007 were received.

68. FOOTWAY LIGHTING REQUEST

Request for additional light at bottom of steps on footpath 69 (Craigside to Dorset Drive) was received from Councillor Harris. Also, the steps were edged in white, now wearing off, and the shrubs are overgrown.

The top of the list was the Woodhouse – Uplands pathway light, but the Administrator was awaiting response from residents of Woodhouse Lane/The Uplands and the results of the consultations would be taken to the Footpaths sub-committee.

69. FLYING UNION FLAG AT TOWN HALL

Councillor Baddeley reported that the Prime Minister had lifted the restrictions on flying the Union Flag. A flag was now flying at Moorlands House. All were in favour of requesting that this be done and it was moved to investigate further

70. BUSES WAITING OUTSIDE TOWN HALL

Councillor Baddeley proposed that a strong letter be sent to First Buses reminding them of their responsibilities re emissions. This was approved.

71. KNYPERSLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Term of office as Local Authority Education Governor for Mr S Meredith to expire on 15 December 2007. Mr Meredith has indicated that he would be willing to serve an additional term. It was moved that his name be put forwards to the County Council.

72. STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Notification of consultation period between 10 September and 22 October received, plus details of manned exhibitions (Biddulph – Councils Connect on 14 and 15 September) and one copy of consultation document received. (Further copies requested to be distributed at the meeting). The exhibition will return to Biddulph on 9 October 2007 and will be well advertised.

73. CORRESPONDENCE

- a Temporary Road Traffic Order – closure of Congleton Road, Mow Cop, from junction with Tower Hill Road for a distance of approx 1.2 km in a north easterly direction, from 8 October until 11 October to allow for BT pole renewal work. The Town Administrator to contact the County Council to remind them that this route is currently in use as a diversion for the resurfacing work on Mow Lane.
- b Wheels to Work scheme – request from SMCVS to assist with publicity of the scheme
- c Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – invitation to attend AGM on 10 October, plus request for Town Council to subscribe for 2007/8 at £15. It was proposed by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor J Harrison that a letter of complaint is sent to the District Council about the disgraceful state of the football pitches in the Biddulph area.

74. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

Councillor Adams noted the poor condition of the ashtray located at the front of the Town Hall – the property of the District Council. It was moved to write to Property Services

75. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH

- a The Deputy Mayor attended the SMCVS AGM and reminded Councillors that a Town Council representative was still needed by the SMCVS.
- b Councillor Redfern attended the Stoke on Trent Army Liaison Team, a splendid evening, thanks were expressed for the support.

76. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

It was moved:

‘That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.’

Signed Date

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

77. TOWN CENTRE RE-DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Hart reported from the afternoon’s briefing for District Council members. Sainsbury’s, principally a food retailer, was to be the new supermarket in the town centre. The developer will be St James Securities. 200 jobs, both full and part time, will be created, and 50 plus auxiliary posts. Legal commitments have been received from both the developer and the supermarket; obligations have been given and received from all the parties involved. It is projected that this development will reverse the trend of shoppers going out of Biddulph, and start to bring shoppers into the town from outside.

Councillor Harris expressed congratulations to all involved. It was noted that the development had received both cross party and cross group support.

Councillors were reminded that this item will not become public knowledge until 12.01am on Thursday 20 September 2007.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed Date

(NOTE: Minute 77 has now moved out of the area of confidentiality)