

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2007**

### **PRESENT**

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor; Councillors Baddeley, Brown, Deaville, Gibson, Hall, J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Jackson, Jones, Lovatt, Meredith, Proudlove, Redfern, Rogers, C Stone, D Stone and Walley.

The Town Crier introduced the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Administrator. Pastor Alec Hilton led members in prayer.

### **66.06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rogers declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 72 accounts; travel expenses.  
Councillor Meredith declared a personal interest in Minute 73; as a governor at Biddulph High School.  
Councillor C Stone declared a personal interest Minute 73; as Vice Chair of District Council's Licensing Committee.

### **67. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and reasons accepted from Councillor Booth. Councillor Adams was absent from the meeting

### **68. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 12 December 2006 were approved. Re Minute 63.06 – amended to 'nothing formal had been received'.

### **69. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- a The Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 12 December 2006 were approved.
- b The Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Committee held on 9 January 2007 were approved.  
Minute 40.06 Councillors Hall and Hart had declared personal interest
- c The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9 January 2007 were approved.
- d The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance/Estimates Committee meeting held on 11 January 2007 were approved. Re Minute 13.07, point 2.1: amend 'November' to read 'October' to enable proper consideration of items put forwards. Suggested that the Finance Committee comprises the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Internal Monitor, Chairs and Vice Chair of all sub-committees – moved to propose this at the AGM.

### **70. BIDDULPH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2006 were received.

### **71. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Nothing formal received, civic duties have been carried out in accordance with the Diary.

### **72. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

a The following accounts have been received for payment:	<b>£</b>
Siemens FS Ltd – copier rental (refund of £293.75 rec'd re risograph)	440.62
Audit Commission	881.25
SMDC – allotment land	100.00
Vemedia – domain renewal/web hosting	74.79

Heads (Congleton) Ltd – public notice (tender)	25.38
ABB Ltd – floodlight installation, Biddulph Moor	1114.61
D Hall - tree surgery, burial ground	446.50
D Lymer – lettering, Honours Board	96.00
Petty Cash	14.50
Staffs County Council – pension contributions	474.80
Inland Revenue	999.18
Salaries -	1805.68
	534.93
Zurich Insurance Company – annual premium	1302.38
Councillor Rogers – travel SPCA	26.26

b Precept 2007/2008

To approve the recommendations of the Finance/Estimates Committee to set the Precept for Year 2007/2008

Councillor Gibson expressed concern about the proposed increase in the Precept. It was noted that this increase will include provision for regeneration projects and the purchase of extra land for burial. Councillor Gibson felt that there were three options for the Precept:

- a) accept the proposal as it stands
- b) reduce the burial ground and regeneration reserves
- c) make cuts in the remainder of the budget

Councillor Brown reported that at last there was good news from the County Council – officers had acknowledged the requirement for extra burial land and agreed in principle to sell some land for this purpose. Councillor Meredith praised Councillor Brown for all his hard work and the Burial Ground sub-committee in sourcing extra burial land.

Councillor Jackson proposed that the recommendation of the Finance and Grants Sub-committee be approved. Councillor Hall understood the burden that the increase will have on householders, but seconded the proposal. The Town Council has to provide for new burial land and cannot expect the regeneration of the town to move forwards without contribution from this Council. It was unfortunate that both had come together.

The Precept of £251,525.00 for the financial year 2007/2008 was agreed.

**73. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**1 The Rotary Club of Biddulph**

A letter of thanks has been received from Biddulph Rotary for the donation towards the Christmas Charity Sleigh Run. The amount collected, including sponsorship, was a record total of £8100 and the main beneficiaries will be the Victoria Centre, the British Heart Foundation and other local charities.

**2 Licensing Applications**

**a Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre**

Notification received that Parkwood Leisure has applied for a variation to change the interior of the premises to create a new bar/café area.

**b Biddulph High School**

Notification received that an application has been received to vary the licence to cover the performance of plays.

**3 Licensing Forum**

Notification received that the meeting of the Forum scheduled to take place on 18 January has been cancelled due to lack of business and re-arranged for March.

**4 European Union Regional Policy**

Copy of document on Cohesion Policy and Cities received.

**5 Town Centre Co-ordinator**

Email received from Ian Jackson, Principal Economic Regeneration Officer at the District Council, to say that the Town Council's contribution towards the Town Centre Co-ordinator project will be reduced pro-rata for eight months as the post is anticipated to be filled in February.

**6 Elections 3 May 2007 – Pre Nomination Evening**

Information received from the District Council that there will be a Pre-nomination Evening at Moorlands House on Monday 22 January for anyone considering becoming a candidate at the forthcoming elections.

The Administrator's Report was received.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

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