

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2008

PRESENT

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Baddeley, Davies, Deane, Deaville, Gibson, Hall, Harris, J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Jackson, Jones, Redfern, Shaw, Sheldon and Walley.

The Town Administrator introduced the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor and invited Rev'd Andrew Dawswell to lead a time of prayer.

92.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No notification received.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Redfern declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 99a; having been lobbied by the Royal British Legion.

94. APOLOGIES

Apologies were given and reasons accepted by Councillors Adams, Betts and Harper, and from the Town Crier.

95. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 January 2008 were agreed and signed.

96. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- a The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 1 January 2008. Re Minute 115a: The Town Administrator to send reminder about the flag
- b The Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee held on 12 February 2008 were agreed.
- c The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 15 January and 12 February were agreed.

97. BIDDULPH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

- a Shortfall in funding for highway works – proposed contribution of £20,000

Councillor Hall expressed concern over the timing of the request for contributions 2 days before the work was due to start. He proposed that a letter is sent to request a proper explanation for the shortfall, Councillor Jackson proposed that the request for £20,000 be granted, the money to be released from the Regeneration budget, seconded by Councillor Shaw. Both proposals were agreed.

- b Notes of last meetings – 27 November 2007 and 17 January 2008 were received.

98. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The Mayor had approached the Leader of the District Council and the Portfolio Holder for Leisure to consider issuing Leisure passes to current armed forces personnel, to use when on leave from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- b. The Mayor attended the Sports Council awards – inspirational. Wonderful talented children with a total dedication to their sport. Requests for Halls Road changing rooms to be extended and upgraded, and for a running track to be provided in Biddulph, were passed on. Councillor Proudlove noted that sport is now a viable career option, we should encourage all we can. He proposed that this matter be put forward to the Regeneration Executive.

99. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment: **£**

Taylor's Skip Hire – allotments 260.00

Severn Trent Water – burial ground	64.40
npower – Christmas lighting (metered electricity)	148.75
Zurich Insurance Company – annual premium	1329.23
ABB Ltd– footway lighting to 31/3/08	830.65
Siemens FS Ltd – photocopier rental	329.00
Staffs County Council – pension contributions	499.35
Inland Revenue	1041.63
Salaries -	1928.89 539.64
Petty cash	62.04
Communicorp (annual subscription to Local Councils update and web library)	100.00
D Allcock – Lengthsman Jan/Feb	265.00
Burial Ground work	175.00
Christmas Tree disposal	35.00
	475.00

90. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1 Mrs C B Ellis

The funeral of past Town and District Councillor Mrs C B Ellis will be held at 11.00am on Friday 29 February at St John's Church, Knypersley.

2 Town Centre Regeneration Pre-planning Application Consultation

Leaflets regarding the exhibition to be held on 28 and 29 February and 1 March will be distributed to all households during the next week and advertisements will be placed in the local press. The exhibition will be held at the Town Hall between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on Thursday and Friday and 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on the Saturday. A freephone number for enquiries will be set up – 0800 975 5299.

Councillor Jackson felt that there was a real willingness from Sainsbury's to be part of the Biddulph community, sketches of proposed designs reflect this. All Councillors were urged to attend the exhibition. Councillor Proudlove agreed that this is the time for suggestions to be given.

3 Website Query

Email received regarding political designation of councillors (tabled)

An appropriate response has been given.

4 Allotments Sub-committee

There is to be a meeting of all those interested in becoming plot holders, with committee members, on Wednesday 20 February at 7.00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to consider joining the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and to discuss the allocation of plots.

5 Community Council of Staffordshire

Copy of 'News and Views' received. This edition contains information on the following: the Environmental Champions scheme, Staffordshire Village Agents, village hall news, best kept village competition 2008 and Rural Access to Services Partnership.

The meeting closed at 7.34 pm

Signed Date