

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 AUGUST 2007

## PRESENT

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

The Town Crier introduced the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Town Administrator. The Town Crier introduced Father Julian Booth who led the meeting in prayer.

## 31.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No notifications had been received.

## 32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Redfern declared a personal interest in Minute 40.4; he is a member of Unison. Councillors Gibson and Jackson declared personal interest in Minute 40.4; their wives are members of Unison.

## 33. APOLOGIES

Apologies were given and reasons accepted by Councillors Davies and Proudlove.

## 34. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 July 2007 were agreed and signed.

## 35. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- a The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 17 July 2007 were agreed.
- b The Minutes of the Meeting of the Grant/Finance Committee held on 14 August 2007 were agreed.
- c The Minutes of the Meeting of the Civic Committee held on 14 August 2007 were agreed.

## 36 BIDDULPH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

- a The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2007 were received.
- b Traffic Regulation Order Proposal – Wharf Road, was approved.

## 37. VACANCY – BIDDULPH NORTH WARD

Notice of Election received from the Returning Officer. Nomination papers available from Biddulph & Leek Councils Connect; closing date for nominations to be returned to Moorlands House by noon on 23 August 2007. If the election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday 20 September

## 38. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The Mayor attended a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, several of the guests were complaining about the lack of bus service to the southern end of Pennine Way. The County Councillor for the area has already written on this subject and has asked for a response.
- b. Gifts have been received from the visitors from Fusignano, to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Twinning of our towns. They are displayed in the Council Chamber.

## 39. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment:	<b>£</b>
Zurich – Festival (public liability insurance)	36.75
Staffordshire Sentinel Newspapers Ltd – Festival	387.98

Twinning Association – 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Civic Committee Minute 14.07)	1000.00
Npower – Christmas lighting standing charge	17.89
Severn Trent Water – Burial Ground	57.69
Roy Beech (Contractors) Ltd – interim payment, Burial Ground	23113.56
Siemens Financial Services Ltd – photocopier rental	329.00
JG Fenn Ltd – printer ink	75.20
Mr B Harrison – Park La allotment site (new padlocks)	33.49
Kalamazoo Security Print Ltd – minute paper	153.63
Paul Smart Print – Reporter Issue 4	334.88
VeMedia – artwork design, Reporter Issue 4	50.00
Petty Cash	49.48
Staffs County Council – pension contributions	487.31
Inland Revenue	971.28
Salaries -	1886.07
	548.08
Derek Allcock - Lengthsman work, August	275.00
– Burial Ground - repair to skip & empty	454.50

#### 40. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

##### 1 BRIC Fun Day – 4 August 2007

Letter of thanks received from the Biddulph East Residents Association for the Town Council agreeing to stand as guarantor for the bond for the use of the Church Road playing field.

*For the Fun Day. Very much appreciated by BRIC and all who took part.*

##### 2 Town Crier – Civic Robes

Quote received for new Town Crier regalia. This will go before the Civic Committee at the next meeting.

##### 3 Licensing Forum

Next meeting to take place at 7 pm on Thursday 30 August in the Trent Room at Moorlands House.

##### 4 Consultation to increase Local Government Pension Scheme protection to 2020

Letter received from TUC and UNISON representative seeking support for the move to see full protection extended to 2020.

*This will affect the lowest paid members. It was proposed to support the consultation by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor J Harrison. Agreed.*

##### 5 Town Centre Redevelopment

A member of the public (Mr Robert Beech) has sent in a suggestion for the design of the new town centre development. I have forwarded this to Dr Wardle, Head of Regeneration, and written to thank Mr Beech for his interest.

##### 6 Grants

Letters of thanks have been received from the following: Citizens Advice Bureau; Christ Church, Biddulph Moor; Art at the Arms; Biddulph in Bloom; Sports Council; Evergreens; Knypersley Ladies Club; Scout Holiday Homes; U3A; Biddulph Moor Rainbows; B Moor Community Committee; District Guides; Midweek Special; Cricket Club; Victoria Centre; Air Ambulance; Biddulph Moor 1<sup>st</sup> Responders; Samaritans; Trefoil Guild; SMCVS and Gillow Heath Brownies.

##### 7 Staffordshire Rural Community Chest Scheme

Letter detailing the scheme received from the Community Development Officer, Charlotte Green. Grants of up to £1000 are available until 31 March 2008.

*Any organisation if covers a rural area, would benefit from the scheme. It was agreed to send the information to all those organisations who would be eligible or might be.*

**8 Annual Maintenance of Street Lighting 2007**

Report received from ABB detailing status and condition of lighting columns, with recommendations. This report conflicts with recent letters received – 2 columns are identified for immediate replacement, at Robin Hill, and 2 for replacement within 2-3 years (Railway Cottages and John Street).

*The Town Administrator proposed that the decision is changed and to deal with the more urgent cases first*

The meeting closed at 7.16 pm

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