

## **MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10 JULY 2007**

### **PRESENT**

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Baddeley, Betts, Gibson, Hall, J Harrison, Hart, Shaw, Sheldon and Walley

#### **11. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Davies and K Harrison.

#### **12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 14.07, as his wife is an employee of a town centre store that will be affected by the AAP.

Councillor Betts declared a personal interest in Minute 14.07 as an employee of a town centre store that will be affected by the AAP.

Councillor Hart declared a personal interest in Minute 14.07 as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and member of the Regeneration Executive.

Councillor Sheldon declared a personal interest in Minute 14.07 as an owner of a town centre business that could be affected by the AAP.

#### **13. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2007 were signed as a true and correct record.

#### **14. TWINNING ANNIVERSARY**

Councillor Baddeley reported that arrangements were in hand for the anniversary visit (7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August) and asked whether District Council permission for the mosaic had been obtained. The Administrator confirmed that it had. Councillor Shaw informed Councillor Baddeley that the Town Council had agreed to fund 50% of the cost of the mosaic.

Councillor Baddeley requested assistance with the funding of the anniversary visit. The recent visitors from Biddulph to Fusignano had been treated splendidly and the Twinning Association would like to reciprocate. A breakdown of the estimated costs of the visit was given to the Chair – in the region of £2,000. It was moved that £750 be recommended to Town Council – making the total sum given by Council towards the Anniversary £1,000.

#### **15. FAIR TRADE TOWN**

Councillor Sheldon had circulated information on this to members. There would be no cost to the Council and the main benefit would be to give Biddulph another identity. Biddulph is already part of the way towards this. Towns that develop Fair trade Status are very proud. It was moved that members take the information away and that a sub-committee be formed at the next meeting. The principle of becoming a Fair Trade town was accepted.

#### **16. NATIVITY CRIB**

A letter was received from Reverend Dawswell, on behalf of Churches Together. This was discussed and all were in favour of supporting the idea, in principle.

#### **17. REGENERATION/TOWN CENTRE**

a) A letter of notification of the Traffic Regulation Orders to enable the market was received. Councillor Gibson had suggested consultation with traders prior to the

publication of the TRO's. He mentioned the narrowness of this section of the High Street. The difficulty of arranging deliveries within certain times was discussed. It was moved to recommend that this Council supports the Traffic Regulation Orders.

- b) Councillor Hart informed members that he had met with the District Council's Property Portfolio Holder and the Property Manager to look at possible improvement work to the town hall and that he hoped that this would go before Cabinet in September, in order that some costings could be obtained. (*Councillor Hart left the meeting.*)
- c) Councillor Sheldon asked when the town centre lighting columns were to be replaced. The Administrator replied that the Regeneration Executive had been informed that this would take place during Phase 2. Councillor Betts had met with an representative of AAB (street lighting contractor) who had said that the budget for replacement was only until April 2008. Members said that the town centre was a separate case and that the Town Council had wished to retain some of its contribution for the upgrading of the columns to a higher standard. It was hoped that the County Council would match-fund. Councillor Sheldon said that it was difficult to keep to a standard with the highway/streetscape improvements as Phase 1 was still incomplete, with missing bollards and patched paving. Maintenance was not being carried out. Also, street furniture needed careful consideration very soon. It was moved to pass this concern on to the Executive.

## **18. CIVIC ROBES**

The Town Crier was invited to address the meeting. He had brought the robes along to the meeting to show members how much they had deteriorated during the last ten years. Mr Robinson felt that the costume looked shabby and tired, despite frequent repairs and dry-cleaning, and did not represent Biddulph well. He had sourced costumiers and the estimated cost for replacement would be £1,200 - £1,500. The estimated time from design to completion would be about three months. He proposed to keep to a very similar design, but of lighter fabric as the present costume was very heavy and warm in summer. It was Moved that Mr Robinson be asked to bring back a written quotation to Council and to include two pairs of breeches in the quotation.

## **19. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

a) Information was received from the local contractor on the questions put at the last meeting – six operatives would be provided for the switch on; a risk assessment and method statement would be provided prior to installation and the Biddulph Moor tree would be included in the quote at a cost of £500. Members were satisfied with this information and it was formally moved to accept the quotation of £7,690 and to minute the reasons for selecting the higher quote:

- the Town Council should not depend on one of its members to attend to lighting/timer failures – this was not satisfactory for health and safety and insurance reasons and would be highlighted in the risk assessment
- this contractor provides same day attendance for emergencies (within 4 hours) and next day attendance for non-emergency work. The other contractor was based in Buckinghamshire and could not promise same day emergency cover.
- this contractor also included two routine visits to replace failed lamps which the other contractor did not include.
- this contractor would provide six operatives to attend the switch on (not provided by other contractor).

b) A sample of LED lamps was viewed by members. The clear golfball lights had been criticised by some members of the public last year and it was generally felt that the coloured lamps used before this had looked rather dull. The LED lamps are more costly, but are more environmentally friendly - low energy consumption and have longer life (100,000 hours +). The normal lamps were only used for one year and then discarded - last year's cost was £364. The lowest cost obtained so far to replace

all of the lamps with LED was £6,020. The Administrator was looking for lower quotes.

Councillor Rogers said that the LED lamps would put less load on the timers and cause them to last longer. He suggested that every other bulb could be LED and the remaining 50% be purchased the following year.

The idea of changing to these lamps was accepted in principle and it was moved to cost various alternatives for the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

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