

## **MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2007**

### **PRESENT**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Baddeley, Davies, Gibson, Hall (Chair), J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Shaw, Sheldon and Walley.

Also in attendance: Councillor Harris, Mrs Humphreys (Town Centre Co-ordinator), Mrs K Corbishley & Mr K Rose (Biddulph Business Group), Mr R Deaville (Biddulph Rotary), DO G Moore (Biddulph Police), Rev A Dawswell (Biddulph Churches Together)

Flowers were presented to Councillor Sheldon on behalf of the Mayor, in recognition of the gaining of a Gold Award in the Britain in Bloom competition. Congratulations were given on this tremendous achievement in a very competitive category. Councillor Sheldon said that one of the reasons Biddulph had scored so highly was that all of the flowers had been grown in the town and that the In Bloom group consists of volunteers, with only one paid worker. Councillor Sheldon thanked local organisations, the Town Council and the volunteers.

### **29. APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from the Mayor and Mr F Warwick.

### **30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 35.07, as his wife is an employee of a town centre store that will be affected by the AAP.

Councillor Hart declared a personal interest in Minute 35.07 as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and member of the Regeneration Executive.

Councillor Sheldon declared a personal interest in Minute 35.07 as a member of the Regeneration Executive

Councillor Hall declared an interest in Minute 32.07; as a member of the Rotary Club of Biddulph.

### **31. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2007 were signed as a true and correct record.

### **32. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND SWITCH ON EVENT**

The town centre switch on will take place on Saturday 24 November. A checklist for the installation of the lights and the switch on day was gone through with the Police, Rotary and Business Group. Rtn Deaville offered Rotary's help with putting out the road closure barriers, but there would not be any one available to bring them in at the end of the evening. Crowd control barriers had been organised for the front of the town hall. Rtn Deaville then also offered the loan of barriers for the road closure, to save the hire costs (as the price for this had risen steeply in recent years). This was gratefully accepted.

The Business Group requested that the time of the switch on be put back to 6 pm and this was agreed. The road closure order will be from 12 noon to 9 pm, to enable the market to set up

Reverend Dawswell asked for thoughts regarding the Nativity Crib and the Chair responded that the Town Council had thought that this would be a worthwhile addition. Mrs Corbishley said that one of the business owners had offered to donate a Nativity set and that another member had offered to build the crib if the materials were provided. It was agreed that Reverend Dawswell, Mrs Corbishley and the Administrator liaise on this and report to the next meeting.

Mrs Humphries reported that the Business Group was very keen to get involved and work along with this committee and would like to approach larger businesses for funding. This was welcomed by the Committee.

Divisional Officer Moore said that there had been no especial problems for the police, last year, just a small difficulty with the fair and the Victoria Centre. Councillor Sheldon said that the problems were increased by the rides being positioned on Friday afternoon and this had affected the residential properties. It was moved to have a meeting with both operators and to agree the positioning of the fair on a plan prior to the event (KT/SH/KC/FH). Div Officer Moore reported that he had ordered the police traffic cones for the bus routes and that additional personnel had also been ordered.

Refreshments for the police and other volunteers on the day were discussed. The Mayor would be unable to do this as she would be otherwise involved with the switch on, but Mrs Corbishley thought that the local cafes may help with this. Mrs Humphreys offered to follow this up.

Councillor Shaw said that the Biddulph Moor Switch on will take place on Saturday 1 December, at 5.30 pm and that arrangements are in hand. The street closure order was requested between 2 and 8 pm.

Rtn Deaville expressed concern about the access and egress of the sleigh in the town centre. Councillor Harris said that the market will not cause any obstruction and that an exit would be maintained at the entrance to Wharf Road.

Mrs Humphreys had asked Mr Rose to put publicity regarding the two switch on's into the Biddulph Link and Mrs Corbishley said that the Chronicle had offered to give free advertising to any events organised by the new Business Group. Other possible additions to the day were: line dancing exhibitions and a performance by a local band. The Business Group was very keen to work with the Council and wished to avoid duplication. The Chair said that the market was an additional event over and above the lights and had previously been organised by the Town Centre Co-ordinator.

The Administrator circulated an estimated expenditure of the lights and switch on. The Town Council did not have enough in its budget to purchase a complete set of led colour changing lamps and options were costed out. Mrs Corbishley said that this had been discussed by the Business Group, who would like to help with the cost of the lamps. The Administrator was still trying to get a lower price than 4.30 each. Councillor Rogers said that as the lights were also a tourist attraction, he would ask the Tourism sub-committee if it could part fund this cost.

The Chair thanked all for their input, which was very much appreciated.

### **33. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute 25.07(a): Councillor Gibson said that there was a need to ascertain that there was adequate money in the budget before approving this expenditure. The Administrator gave a brief breakdown on the budget and it was agreed that the Civic budget could support £500 for the market.

### **34. CIVIC REGALIA FOR TOWN CRIER**

An Estimate of £1,400 was approved for the supply of new civic robes for the Town Crier. This was Proposed by Councillor Shaw and Seconded by Councillor Harrison. It was noted that it had been moved to purchase a bell holder for the Town Crier.

### **35. REGENERATION/TOWN CENTRE**

a) A request for regeneration match funding was received from Groundwork and this was discussed at length. It was moved to put this before the Town Council with a recommendation to suggest that thought be given to making the dry stone wall bases vandal proof in some way. It was suggested that someone from Groundwork be asked to a future meeting.

b) A new traffic order for a no right turn from South View to Wharf Road was received. It was noted that this would correct the order put before Town Council at the last meeting and all were in favour of approval. Councillor Jackson reported that the Well Street junction was to have its priority changed, at long last.

c) it was noted that there will be more information available following the next meeting of the District Council's Cabinet.

The Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

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