

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2007

PRESENT

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Baddeley, Davies, Gibson, J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Shaw and Sheldon

Also in attendance: Mr Dale and Mr McNulty of the Twinning Association

1.07 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- a) Councillor Hall was nominated as Chair by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor J Harrison.
- b) Councillor Shaw was nominated as Vice Chair by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

2. APOLOGIES

Councillors Hall, Walley and the Town Centre Co-ordinator, Mrs Humphreys.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rogers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 7.06, as his wife is an employee of a town centre store that will be affected by the AAP.

Councillor Sheldon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 7.06, having business interests in the town centre and personal interest as a member of the Regeneration Executive.

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

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2007 were signed as a true and correct record. Re Minute 88d.06: (the requested weight limit signs for High Street) it was reported that the request had been made to the County Council and that Mr Mason had agreed to look into this. Re Minute 89.06: (town hall charges) the Mayor reported that she had wanted to book the hall for a charity fundraising event but that the costs were prohibitive. It was felt that the District Council would price the town hall out of business.

5. TWINNING ANNIVERSARY

Mr Dale and Mr McNulty, of the Twinning Association, were welcomed and invited to address the meeting.

Mr Dale reported that the association had approached a local ceramic artist, Mr Hardaker, to design and install a mosaic to mark the 20th Anniversary of the twinning with Fusignano and that Mr Hardaker had accepted the commission and that the total cost would be no greater than £500. A quotation was being put together. It was noted that the design, costs and siting of the mosaic would need to be approved by the Town Council and permission sought from the District Council, as owners of the building. Regarding the timescale – it was hoped that it could be ready for unveiling on 12 August, which is the day on which the Twinning Charter was signed in Biddulph and when there will be a party from Fusignano in Biddulph. It was noted that the mosaic would be 36 inches in diameter and that the preferred site was the front of the town hall, to the right of the foyer doors. It was proposed by Councillor J Harrison and seconded by Councillor Gibson that the Town Council meets 50% of the total cost. This was Moved. Councillor Shaw proposed that the Chair and Vice Chair look at the proposed design and bring it to the next meeting of the Town Council for approval, seconded by Councillor J Harrison. This was Moved.

Mr Dale and Mr McNulty were thanked for attending the meeting and left the Chamber.

6. QUALITY COUNCIL

The meeting of 23 May had been postponed and we were now awaiting information on the outcome of the rescheduled Accreditation Panel meeting. The Mayor said that if Quality Council Status was achieved, it was due to the immense amount of work done by the Administrator and the Administrative Assistant and it was Moved to record this.

7. TOWN CENTRE/REGENERATION

Councillor Hart reported that there had been a delay in re-advertising the traffic regulation orders for the Phase 2 work and the market. Some information regarding the market was awaited and this was to be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting. The information from the District Council would be sent to Mr Mason (County Council officer dealing with the town centre highway works) and then the TRO's would be advertised. It was anticipated that these would be completed by October/November.

Councillor Sheldon reported that the new High Street containers would be in place within the next ten days. There was a serious problem with the finish of some of the Phase 1 paving as gaps had been left between the paving and the buildings and these had filled with cigarette ends that the sweeper could not remove. This had been reported to some on-site workers, but nothing had been done yet to seal the gaps. Also, because a reduced number of bollards had been incorporated into the scheme than recommended by the County Council, it resulted in vehicles being able to squeeze in between and park on the paving – sometimes knocking the bollards down.

8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – TENDER FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

9. BIDDULPH AS A FAIR TRADE TOWN

Councillor Sheldon gave advance notice of this as an agenda item for the next meeting. She felt that we already met quite a lot of the criteria.

10. ADVISORY ITEM – PUBLIC SEATS

Councillor Gibson brought to the attention of the Committee the fact that the Health and Safety Executive had ordered some councils to change public seats that did not conform to the regulation height. This also applies to cemeteries and all seats should be on hard standing to ensure that wheelchairs can be positioned by them. The Administrator will look into this. Councillor Sheldon said that all of the new town seats are from a well known national supplier and will be of the required height.

The Meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

Signed Date