

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2007

PRESENT

Mayor, The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hall, Councillors Baddeley, Betts, Davies, Harper, J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Shaw, Sheldon, Walley, Mrs Cobishley, Mrs Humphreys, Sgt Evans, Divisional Officer Moore, PCSO's Linton and Powell.

44.07 APOLOGIES

Councillors Gibson and Harris, Mr F Warwick, Rev'd A Dawswell, Mr J Robinson

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

46. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2007 were signed.

47. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY/CENOTAPH

Councillor Roberts reported that the local Royal British Legion had asked us to find a parade marshal and Sgt Bennett had filled in at very short notice. An offer was received from Town Crier to use his services for both parade and wreath laying in future years. Councillor Hall suggested that Mr Robinson's offer to organise the Parade be passed to Royal British Legion? All were in favour and it was moved to thank him for the offer.

Councillor Shaw wished to discuss Mr Robinson's point on whether to come back to the Town Hall afterwards or remain at the Victoria Centre. He felt it was the Town Council's contribution to the event. The Mayor pointed out that some people missed the March past afterwards, though the uniforms did this. It was agreed that the Royal British Legion be asked to consider this next time.

HOSPITALITY

Councillor Hall reported that the Mayor asked that consideration be given to cost of refreshments for Staffordshire Association/Mercian Regiment delegation who participated on Remembrance Sunday. The Victoria Centre couldn't cope with more than tea and a biscuit, so there had been a buffet at Wetherspoons. The total was £500, with donations totalling £242 received. The Mayor was making this up to £400 and asked for donation from hospitality of £100. Councillor Hall noted that there was £100 left in Remembrance Sunday budget. It was moved to recommend that this be donated to provide the Mercian Regiments hospitality.

48. CHRISTMAS SWITCH ON EVENT

A plan of the layout was circulated and approved and the running order was also circulated. Councillor Rogers reported that the installation of the lights was almost complete. An offer from the contractor to loan large decorations for the cost of _ days labour was received. It was moved to accept if the owner of building was in agreement – find out cost and leave with Deputy Mayor and Town Administrator.

The Police reported that the barrier and diversion signs (Rotary) were ordered and will be put out, also 'no waiting' cones for bus areas.

Councillor Shaw confirmed that all was in order for Biddulph Moor.

Councillor Rogers asked that the crib be got to us by Monday morning as the Electricians were coming next week for tree - the crib may have to go nearer to the tree for the power supply. Health and Safety will have to take precedence. This would be left with Councillor Rogers and Mrs Corbishley.

The Administrator reported on the cost of stalls and electricity supply for the market. It was agreed that the deficit on the cost would be made up by Biddulph Chamber.

Councillor Rogers reported that we had been constantly upgrading our equipment and so have not had to exceed budget.

Councillor Roberts had arranged for 2 middle school children to assist with the switch on and was arranging catering. She would liaise with Moorlands Radio and the performers.

Councillor Jackson pointed out that where fun house is King Street, the cash point was very dark and this may be a crime prevention issue and needs looking at. This was noted by the police.

Councillor Sheldon wished to thank the Administrator, saying it was an onerous task to please everyone. The Chair gave thanks to all those who were working hard to make lights event a success.

49. REGENERATION

Councillor Jackson reported on an employment and training opportunity for Biddulph at Victoria Centre at 2.30 on Wednesday 21 November to link as many people as possible to job opportunities at Sainsbury's. Presentations, updates – open invitation. Kathy Ainsworth was the contact at the District Council offices.

Mrs Humphreys said that business groups were invited; also a separate event was being organised by Business Link. She gave a brief update on consultation with affected businesses. Sainsburys were very open in dealings and had agreed to hold surgery days to discuss concerns of individual businesses. Letters had gone out to make sure that there was more clarity for businesses. Things were moving on and there was now a communication plan. Councillor Hall said that it was gratifying that this is now happening. Councillor Hart had voiced that he had not been happy with the process of communication in past. He was now happy, but was willing to discuss any problems that arise.

Mrs Humphreys gave a brief empty properties update – looking at if displaced businesses could move into these properties with improvement grants and working closely with these businesses. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

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