

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2006

In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair, it was proposed and agreed that the Mayor should Chair the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor; Councillors Baddeley, Booth, Brown, Deaville, Gibson, Hall, Jackson, Jones, Lovatt, Rogers, C Stone, D Stone and Walley.

Councillors Hart, Meredith and Redfern were also present.

89. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and reasons accepted from Councillors J and K Harrison
Councillors Adams was absent from the meeting.

Councillor Proudlove gave retrospective apologies: his agenda was delayed in the postal strike, arriving two days after the meeting.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gibson declared an interest in General Purposes Minute 93.06; as Portfolio Holder for the environment.

Councillor Shaw declared a personal interest in Minute 97.06; he knows the playgroup leaders, one is a personal friend.

Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in Minute 97, he also knows the playgroup leaders.

Councillor Redfern declared a personal interest in Minute 92, as a member of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

91. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2006 were approved and signed.

92. STAFFORDSHIRE YOUTH SHELTER

Councillor Lovatt reported that the Wildlife Trust are interested in promoting Youth Shelters, and have offered guidance to local groups on installation, as they have expertise in this area. Councillor Lovatt wished to encourage local groups to apply for a grant for these to the Local Member Initiative fund.

93. DISTRICT COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Councillor Gibson gave a short talk followed by a question and answer session. It was agreed that he would give a presentation on developments to the service at a future meeting.

94. BIDDULPH VALLEY PARK

Councillor Jackson expressed thanks to members of the Action Group who have worked very hard behind the scenes. Copies of forthcoming plans to update the paths were circulated and explained.

95. THEATRE PROJECT

See Town Council Minute 61a.06. There is still approximately £50,000 left in the Regeneration budget and some of this could be available for this project, within the remaining timescale.

96. SPCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCY

Information received from the SPCA that Councillor Rogers had been elected.

97. BIDDULPH MOOR PLAY GROUP

A letter was received asking for urgent financial help. Several suggestions were made. Councillor Shaw proposed that a letter be sent informing the group that local councillors will contact them and assist them in applying for other sources of funding eg BRIC, SMCVS, but stressing that no further money can be given from the Town Council until the next grant awards in May/June 2007. This was moved.

98. CORRESPONDENCE

- a Information on new employment law on age received from Business Link.
- b Information leaflets on Staffordshire Rural Access to Services Partnership received.
- c Letter received from Staffs Moorlands Community Safety Partnership regarding an event to be held at Moorlands House on 14 March – ‘Trickster’ – a play aimed at elderly and vulnerable people to raise awareness about bogus callers.

99. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

Councillor Lovatt asked for an update on the Uplands footpath lighting project. The householders at both ends of the footpath are to be contacted and informed of the project, prior for the order for the work being issued.

100. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH

- a Councillor Lovatt asked for an update on the Tunstall Road ‘hole’. The hole will be ‘filled in’ on Friday 15 December and the work completed on Monday 18 December 2006.
- b Councillor Rogers attended the Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association meeting recently. Councillor Harry Brunt is the new Chair. There are currently 11 Quality Councils in Staffordshire and Councillor Rogers thought that there might be a maximum number of 18 in Staffordshire, due to financial constraints.
- c Councillor Gibson reported that he met with the Internal Auditor this week. Mr D Ingman had given risk assessment guidance and help. Councillor Gibson and the Town Administrator will bring an updated report to the Finance Committee meeting in the New Year.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

The Mayor invited everyone to remain behind for refreshments; Councillors were joined by representatives of various volunteer groups in Biddulph.

Signed Date

During the refreshments a gift was presented to Mr Harris following his recent retirement, in appreciation of his work as Town Centre Co-ordinator.