

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2007**

**PRESENT** The Mayor, The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Adams, Deane, Deaville, Gibson, Hall, Harris, J Harrison, K Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Shaw, Sheldon and Walley. Also in attendance Councillor Davies and Redfern and Mrs Humphreys, the Town Centre Co-ordinator

### **15.07 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were given and reasons accepted by Councillor Baddeley and the Town Crier, Mr Robinson.

### **16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Walley declared a personal interest in Minute 21; as Secretary of the Biddulph Sports Council

Councillors Harris, J Harrison and Redfern declared personal interest in Minute 21; as members of the Biddulph Sports Council.

Councillor Deane declared a personal interest in Minute 25; as Patron of Biddulph Players

Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in Minute 25; as he helped to draw up the plans

Councillor Jackson declared a personal interest in Minute 27; as member of the Board of Directors at Moorlands Housing.

Councillor Deane declared a personal interest in Minute 32a; as a close personal friend of one of the parties

Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in Minute 32a; as a friend of one of the parties and Chair of the Festival Committee

Councillors Jones and Shaw declared personal interest in Minute 32b; as governors at Woodhouse Middle School.

### **17. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2007 were approved and signed.

### **18. TOWN BURIAL GROUND**

The Minutes of the meeting held 16 April 2007 were received. The meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 18 June 2007 had been postponed as a mark of respect to the late Councillor Brown MBE.

### **19. TOURISM**

The Minutes of the meetings held 19 April 2007 and 7 June 2007 were received. Promotional items were now available - mouse mats at £3.50 each and pens at £1.00 each. 15,000 festival leaflets were ready to be distributed. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Humphreys for securing funding for future items.

### **20. TOWN CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR**

Mrs Sarah Humphreys was welcomed to the meeting. Biddulph is in a time of review and rethink. This Council hoped to continue the good working relationship with the new Town Centre Co-ordinator, as with her predecessor.

### **21. MEADOWS SCHOOL SITE – PROPOSED COMMUNITY USE**

Councillor Harris tabled a proposal that the Meadows School site could be a suitable location for a 'cottage hospital' in Biddulph.

*It was moved to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Town Centre Co-ordinator to give information to members.*

Mrs Humphreys was invited to address the meeting, having recently met with Carol Goodwin, Head of Planning at the Primary Care Trust; they are carrying out a needs assessment. Mrs Humphreys suggested that Mr Bruce and Ms Goodwin could be invited to a future meeting to up date this Council.

*Standing Orders were resumed.*

It was proposed by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor Shaw, that a letter be sent to Mr Tony Bruce, Chief Executive North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust, to notify him and draw his attention to the fact that there is a site in Biddulph where a hospital could be built cheaply. Also, to invite him to attend a future meeting. This was Moved.

## **22. CAR PARKS IN BIDDULPH**

Councillor Gibson proposed that a letter be written to the new Leader of the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Councillor Jackson amended the wording to ask the new administration looks again at car parking charges in Biddulph. Councillor Gibson seconded the amendment and this was Moved.

## **23. FACILITIES FOR THE CONTINENTAL MARKET**

Councillor Gibson offered congratulations to all those behind the arrangements for the Biddulph Festival 2007. He proposed that the Chair of Tourism requests that the District Council suspend car parking charges on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 July 2007. This suspension could be pre-advertised to encourage visitors, seconded by Councillor J Harrison.

## **24. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Councillor Gibson had read in the local press that all WC's in the Moorlands are to have attendants and will subsequently charge admission. Councillor Gibson proposed that a letter is written to the District Council asking that this Town Council is properly consulted and objecting to WC charging until the regeneration of the town is well under way, seconded by Councillor J Harrison. This was Moved.

## **25. LAND FROM SMDC AND THEATRE PROPOSALS, CURRENT AND FUTURE**

Councillor Gibson proposed that a letter be written to the District Council reminding the new Leader of the pledges made at a previous meeting by the last administration, re-stating the Town Council's interest and to have the proposals put onto the agenda.

Councillor Harris gave a brief update on the theater proposal for the benefit of the new members. He said that this would provide a focus and an advantage for this building as it is now in direct competition with the Victoria Centre.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Shaw with the proviso that the two items - land and theatre - are separated and two letters are sent to the two different departments. This was Moved.

Councillor Jackson felt that the proposal should be renamed stage improvements, as theatre is too grandiose. Councillor Jackson listed several avenues of funding for the Theatre proposal; the Regeneration Executive, Advantage West Midlands, Biddulph Town Council regeneration pot. The Youth Theatre may open the way to a further pot of money. Councillor Jackson proposed that copies of the letters are sent to the Regeneration Executive. This was Moved.

An update for new Councillors with reference to the land will be given as a confidential item following the item already identified on the agenda.

## **26. FOOTWAY LIGHT – JOHN STREET ALLEYWAY**

A letter was received from ABB to report that during routine maintenance it was noted that the above column is badly deteriorated and it was recommended that it be replaced. The cost of supply and installation is £941.16. It was Moved that the replacement be carried out.

**27. LAND AT WHARF ROAD**

A letter was received from County Council to advise the Town Council that the District Council and Moorlands Housing had also registered an interest in the above surplus land.

**28. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a North Staffordshire Core Spatial Strategy revised preferred options report Received.
- b SPCA Executive Committee: nominations invited – deadline 29 June. It was noted that Councillor Deaville had previously been proposed.
- c Pool Fold Post Office – notification received of the temporary closure from 8 May, due to resignation of sub-postmaster.

**29. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION**

There were none.

**30. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH**

There were none.

**31. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

It was moved:

*‘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.’*

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