

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Adams, Baddeley, Davies, Deaville, Hall, Harper, Harris, J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Jackson, Jones, Redfern, Shaw and Walley.

Also in attendance Councillors Davies, Hart and Redfern.

76.07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were given and reasons accepted by Councillors Deane, Gibson and Sheldon, and from the Town Crier

Apologies were given by Councillor Betts.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

78. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2007 were approved and signed.

79. SMCVS

To be deferred to a later meeting.

80. GROUNDWORK

Gareth Morgan and a colleague were invited to address the meeting to discuss the project. Biddulph Valley Way Regeneration Project (the old railway lines)

Councillor Jackson funding how many strands secured?

Mr Morgan – the labour and National Trust. Bid to AWM for 80% to be submitted in November supported by MTI, Town Council approval would be leverage.

When start and finish? Feb/Mar – Aug-Sept dependent on planning application

Dry stone walling major vandalism risk, specialist skill to build, will be hidden security

KJ excellent scheme, will give impetus to full length of BVW improvements

AH discussed with Perry Wardle re maintenance

TH thanks for presentation impressed garden theme starting to blossom support in principle, make quite clear care that not isolated but linked to TC gateway

EB climbing frame?

Will be addressed in the design detail

WR Gillow Heath mentioned on signage?

Could be

JJ sceptical money could have been spent better but will support. Biddulph ex-mining town disappointed that not reflected, should be reminded of heritage.

Design does reflect heritage in abstract way

LD agree with JJ should use Grange idea but could link together with mining theme

Gareth room to expand, happy to take on board comments

Councillor Harris commented on the imaginative link with Biddulph Grange

It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor J Harrison that Biddulph Town Council approves the sum of £6000 subject to confirmation of other fund partners and that final plans are brought before the Council. Agreed.

Groundwork were thanked for attending, look forward to seeing them again with improved design.

81. TOWN BURIAL GROUND

The meeting has been re-arranged and will take place on Monday 22 October 2007 in the Town Hall annexe at 5.30pm.

82. TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor Rogers reported. Reference Minute 48a whole host of areas could be linked from the Biddulph Valley Park to Knypersley Pool. Links could be included from walks around the Biddulph Valley Way.

83. EXTRA BINS IN BIDDULPH

Item referred from the Locality Action Group. Councillor Rogers spoke about the litter around the High School and Park Middle School and requested additional rubbish bins, and additional dog bins along the Biddulph Valley Way.

Councillor Redfern mentioned the newly formed Residents Association which share the same concerns about bins. It is their belief that there is a slow down on the provision of dog bins and funding for their emptying - £700 per annum to empty one bin!

Councillor Rogers will report back to the Locality Action Group.

Councillor J Harrison requested a bin to be sited in Ruabon Close. It had been suggested that this Town Council purchase a bin which would be emptied at the expense of the District Council, no reply has been received from Shaun Hollinshead.

84. RECYCLE FOR STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS

Thanks received for assistance with the recent Roadshows, plus a copy of the DVD explaining the changes (also available at http://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php/newsID-396)

85. CORRESPONDENCE

- a Letter received complaining that First bus drivers will not use the stop at the junction of Kingsfield Road and Well Street, parked cars prevent the bus from stopping here, the bus stop marking has worn away. It was moved to write to First buses to demand that the bus drivers stop at the bus stop, and to write to the traffic wardens asking them to monitor the situation and ticket illegally parked vehicles, and to send a letter to the County Council asking that bus stop markings are repainted, and to write to the lady complainant listing the action taken, it was also moved to copy any replies to her.
- b Letter and petition received from Mill Hayes residents, complaining about HGV's using the road. It was agreed to refer the matter to the suitable authority, to ask Staffordshire Police for viable alternatives, to request County highways to put up relevant signage. It was noted that new signs are being trialled which advise that the road is not suitable for HGV Sat Nav users. Copies of all correspondence to County Council and letter to Mr Andrew to let him know the action taken.
- c Letter from Chris Sims, the new Chief Constable of Staffordshire received, to introduce himself and to say that he looks forwards to working together in the future. It was suggested that he is invited to attend a future meeting.
- d Community Council of Staffordshire Annual Report 2006-2007 received.
- e Supplementary Planning documents – 'Affordable Housing' and 'Inclusive Design Access For All' received from Stoke on Trent City Council. Councillor Jackson borrowed the literature.

86. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

- a Councillor Baddeley any response from First buses? Nothing further, a copy to be sent with letter reference minute 85a
- b Councillor Adams, any action on rusty tin on the side of the Town Hall? No.
- c Councillor Harris any response re hospital suggestion? Letter received to acknowledge receipt nothing further.

87. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH

Councillor Deaville reported on a meeting of the Executive of the SPCA which she attended with Councillor Rogers. Quality Status was discussed: further progress on the Town Council's application is on hold until a window of opportunity is opened.

Signed Date

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm