

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JULY 2007

PRESENT The Mayor, The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Baddeley, Betts, Deane, Deaville, Gibson, Hall, Harris, J Harrison, K Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Sheldon and Walley.

Also in attendance Councillors Davies, Hart, Proudlove and Redfern.

33.07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Adams and Shaw.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Deane declared a personal interest in Minute 48; he is a close personal friend of the applicant

Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in Minute 48; as he has worked with the applicant to produce the Biddulph Festival brochure.

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 48; as Chair of the Tourism sub-Committee.

35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2007 were approved and signed.

36. TOWN BURIAL GROUND

The Minutes of the meeting held 2 July 2007 were received. Photographs of the flooded section are available to view; Councillors were informed that the matter is being dealt with, this can be reported to members of the public. There was nothing further to report re the land.

37. TOURISM

a) The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2007 were received. Re Minute 15.07e; it was suggested that the proposal be passed to the Regeneration Executive to 'mull over' and come back with a reply to the next meeting of the Town Council. This was Proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Gibson. Agreed.

b) To discuss the purchase of a display cabinet for promotional items; it was agreed to purchase a display cabinet, funded equally from the Regeneration and Tourism budgets, proposed by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor J Harrison. Agreed.

38. NEIGHBOURHOOD REGENERATION OFFICERS

Moorlands Housing's Neighbourhood Regeneration Officer, Vanessa Messham was invited to address the meeting. Her colleague, Andrew Weetman, was at Leek Town Council doing the same. These are new posts; they are three weeks into their training. Vanessa and Andrew are looking at the statistics and trends and community views. They have been driving round to see for themselves. Councillors were invited to telephone with any issues for them to respond to. They are working closely with the LSP in all five Biddulph wards.

The Chair thanked Vanessa for attending the meeting.

39. STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2007 - 2020

A draft Consultation document was received from the Local Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Jackson noted that at many meetings he attended there was an emphasis on the importance of Tourism in the District, but this is seasonal, lowly paid, low skilled and is not the panacea. We should also be concentrating on manufacturing and industry.

A copy of the report is in the Town Administrator's office, comments to be received before final adoption in September.

40. ETHICS AND STANDARDS BRIEFING FOR TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS

Briefing sessions have been arranged in three locations, as follows: 23 July at Cheadle Town Hall, 25 July at Moorlands House, Leek, 30 July at Biddulph Town Hall – all at 6.30 pm. These were recommended for all members and an indication of which each event members planned to attend was requested.

It was noted that the three dates were in the middle of the Potters holiday, Councillors would prefer the session to be held on a council meeting evening rather than a separate day. It was proposed to request that the briefing is held immediately preceding the next meeting of the Town Council. This was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Hart. All were in favour and the Town Administrator was asked to write with this proposal, pointing out that there are many diverse reasons why Councillors cannot attend.

41. TWINNING ANNIVERSARY

An invitation was received from the Twinning Association to attend the unveiling of the mosaic at 3.00 pm on Sunday 12 August, followed by a buffet at the Victoria Centre. A request was made for numbers of those wishing to attend – it was estimated that approximately 20 councillors/families would attend.

42. FOOTWAY AT HALLS ROAD

A letter was received from the County Council to say that a new section of footway was being constructed between Field View and the existing footway on Halls Road. The work was programmed to start in the week commencing 2 July 2007.

Councillors welcomed this; however this road has a very dangerous surface which would now be made even narrower by this work. The hedge would need to be cut more frequently, although under Defra regulations, the hedges cannot be cut until September. They were all very overgrown. It was asked that 106 money should be linked more closely to areas near to the development. This work had arranged when the original planning application was made. One third of the path has already been laid. It was moved that a letter should be written forthwith.

43. FOOTWAY LIGHT – RAILWAY COTTAGES – COLUMN 1

A letter was received from ABB to report that during routine maintenance it was noted that the above column was badly deteriorated and it was recommending replacement. The cost of supply and installation was £1094.85. The Town Administrator noted that the budget had already been allocated for this year and suggested that a letter be written explaining this and requesting more information about the exact status of the column. The repair/replacement would have to be included in the budget for the next financial year. A rolling programme for repair would need to be instigated and a contingency fund budgeted for in the future.

It was agreed to give the Town Administrator the authority to act on behalf of the Town Council in this matter.

44. CORRESPONDENCE

- a Oxhey First School – notification of vacancy for a Local Authority Governor (closing date 7 August). Councillor Deaville expressed interest, any other interested parties to give name(s) to the Town Administrator before 7 August.
- b Sustainable Staffordshire – Issue 21 received.
- c Revised Statement of Licensing Policy received from the District Council. Any comments to be forwarded by 17 September. Copies are available in the Town Administrator's office.

45. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

None were received.

46. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH

None were received.

47. 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