

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2007**

PRESENT

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor; Councillors Adams, Baddeley, Booth, Brown, Gibson, Hall, J Harrison, K Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lovatt, Proudlove, Rogers, C Stone and D Stone.

Councillors Hart, Meredith and Redfern were also present.

111. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and reasons accepted from Councillors Deaville and Walley

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Redfern declared a personal interest in Minute 121, his Mother is an employee of the Chronicle

Councillor Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 114 a friend of the tenderee, leaving the meeting before discussion began and returning after.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal interest in Minute 117

113. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2007 were approved and signed.

114. TOWN BURIAL GROUND SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of meeting held on 15 January 2007 had been circulated. Councillor Brown gave a brief resume of the meeting held on 12 February 2007. Only 1 tender has been received, it was agreed to re advertise and action be taken forthwith on receipt of tenders. An oak tree had fallen towards the Grange Gardens in the recent storm and immediate action had been taken to make safe. Approximate cost to make safe, remove debris and repair fence £2000.

115. TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of meeting held on 25 January 2007 were moved

116. DISTRICT COUNCIL WASTE & RECYCLING STRATEGY

A presentation was given by Councillor Gibson, Cabinet Member for the Environment, on the new Waste and Recycling Collection Strategy

Questions were asked and replies given. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Gibson for all the time and effort he has put into this strategy. He will return when the other half of the service is 'rolled out'.

117. HEARING INDUCTION LOOP FOR COUNCIL CHAMBER

Councillor Rogers noted that many of the community groups who use the chamber and are hearing impaired. He proposed that a letter is sent to Clive Rhodes, Head of Property Services requesting that a hearing induction loop is installed in the chamber now right now. Seconded by Councillor Lovatt. Agreed.

118. TOWN CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR

A letter has been received from Mr Perry Wardle – Head of Regeneration at the District Council outlining the arrangements agreed in Leek and Cheadle for the formation of local boards to which the Town Centre Manager/Co-ordinators are accountable. Also requesting clarification over the amount to be re-charged for the use of the Mayor's Room by the Biddulph Town Centre Co-ordinator.

a Formation of the Board

Councillor Proudlove proposed that a small group is set up to consider the options and report back, no-one else agreed.

Councillor Proudlove proposed that a reply is sent agreeing to replicate the model of Leek and Cheadle, this was seconded by Councillor Jones. Agreed. Councillor Gibson abstained from voting.

b Use of Mayor's Room

Councillor Jackson remarked that it feels churlish to charge for use of the Room, we don't charge partners for use of any other rooms, and would not look in the best light, the room is not used very often by the Mayor.

Councillor Proudlove proposed and Councillor Hart seconded that a reply is sent pointing out that the District Council charge us for the room and it is up to them if they want to give a rebate for the use by the Town Centre Co-ordinator.

It was agreed that the letter is sent forthwith requesting that the reply is given before the next meeting. Councillor Jackson noted that it will be another 8 weeks before an appointment is made.

119. VICTORIA COLLIERY SITE

Councillor Meredith expressed concern at the slow take up of units on the Victoria Colliery site. This site is now called the Victoria Business Park and must never again be referred to as anything else! Councillor Meredith proposed that a site visit is arranged with officers

Councillor Meredith's concerns included:

- much of the site has not been touched
- traffic lights are still not in use
- the site has not been advertised recently
- we want to get jobs on there now and not wait

Councillor Gibson -

- 180 full time jobs on site
- 20 part time
- 25 in near future

businesses include

- computer repair
- boat builder
- bus and coach company
- another local business also up there

Terms have been agreed with three more developers but there is a long period of lead in time before terms are agreed, considerable progress has been made, but it was noted that it does take time for land to settle.

Councillor Gibson proposed that a letter of thanks is sent to someone don't know who??

Councillor D Stone expressed concern that the lack of progress had not been mentioned in the Executive meeting – left in bad water, he held the Executive responsible and expressed disappointment that the Business Park appeared to have been lost in the fullness of time, left and abandoned by those who should have had concern for it

Councillor Lovatt responded that this was an example of if the minutes of the last Regeneration meeting had been available it would show that and update on the Business Park had been requested and given by an officer.

In favour of sm proposal to ask officer for sm to occupancy on site visit forthwith and also send strong notice that sign down wrong impression

Councillor Jackson - it had not been just left, an number of new jobs have been created that is the criteria on which it should be judged.

'Regen' and 'Renew' are to amalgamate but have different boundaries, this may mean that Biddulph East receives further funding.

Councillor Proudlove gave a summary of the project at Chatterley Whitfield, it began in 1993 and the 1st business opened in 2006

Councillor Hart agreed with Councillor Jackson and was pleased that the businesses had remained in Biddulph and not gone away. The site is 21 acres and 6 acres are currently in use. He suggested that contact is made 'over the boundary' with Councillors overseeing the Chatterley Whitfield site

Councillor Proudlove seconded the proposal that a site visit with officers is arranged. It was agreed forthwith

120. DOG BINS/WASTE BINS

Councillor Meredith gave a detailed account of the position and type of every bin in Biddulph.

Councillor Meredith expressed concern over the frequency that dog bins are emptied. He also requested a dog bin at the new walkway and a 'rubbish' bin at Cowlshaw's

It was proposed to contact Craig Hatton with this request

Councillor Lovatt proposed that a letter is sent to the District Council taking up these issues seconded Councillor Proudlove. Agreed.

Are these two separate proposals or the same one?

121. BIDDULPH CHRONICLE

Councillor Roberts reported that Helen Webster- from the Chronicle is leaving for pastures new. Ms Webster was presented with a bouquet and a round of applause.

122. POTENTIAL REGENERATION PROJECT

Councillor Proudlove asked for the support in principle of the Town Council for a project that he is working on to raise the profile of Biddulph - the Garden Town of Staffordshire and build on this promotion both locally and further afield. It was agreed that Councillor Proudlove will explain the principle behind this proposal at a future meeting of the Civic Committee.

123. CORRESPONDENCE

- a SPCA Chief Executive's Circular No 32 – copy received.
- b Temporary Road traffic Regulation Order – notification of closure of part of Warwick Street and St John's Road for sewer works.
- c Consultation document on the revised Model Code of Conduct for local authority members received. Town Administrator to request summary for distribution to all councillors. Councillor Hall – it is important the we know what's going on.

124. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

None

125. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH

- a see Madelaine's note
- b Councillor Jackson publicly thanked all 30-40 'like-minded' people who recently turned out to plant hundreds of trees at the Biddulph Valley Park.
- c Councillor J Harrison tabled a report from the Sports Council. Received.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Signed Date

