

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2006

PRESENT

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

Councillors Hart and Redfern were also present.

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and reasons accepted from Councillors Lovatt, Proudlove and Walley and the Town Crier. Apologies were received from Councillor C Stone.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in Minute 79 and Minute 86c, as a member of Biddulph Rotary, leaving the meeting before each discussion took place, returning after.

Councillor Brown declared a personal interest in Minute 79 as a member of Biddulph Methodist Church.

Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in Minute 79 and in 84 as a School Governor of the.

78. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2006 were approved and signed.

79. FINANCE/GRANTS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2006 were received and approved.

80. TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of meeting held on 2 November 2006 were received. Re: Minute 41 paragraph 2: Councillor Gibson was thanked for his rapid, in depth response.

81. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Copy of the key points of the White Paper and a summary of the local government section of the Queen's Speech were tabled. A full copy can be obtained on request.

One key point is that the power of well-being will be extended to Quality Councils – which will benefit the community and result in less restriction in spending. This gives wide ranging and far reaching powers to local councils. It was noted that NALC have been very helpful in distributing this information promptly.

82. THEATRE PROJECT

The Town Administrator had requested a meeting with Carol Masheter, District Council Arts Development Manager. There is still an unallocated sum in the Regeneration budget – some of this may be available for the scheme.

It was moved that this item be put on the next agenda following this meeting

83. SPCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCY

Councillor Rogers was nominated and seconded and his name is to be put forward.

84. MOOR FIRST SCHOOL

Notification of vacancy for a Local Authority Governor at the above school received. Names of those interested to be passed to the Town Administrator.

85. COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE/LOCAL POST OFFICES

It was moved to send a letter from Town Council in support of this initiative to back local post offices. When Gillow Heath Post Office was closed the post box was also removed - the nearest one is at the Staffordshire Knot. It was moved to also send a letter to the MP regarding this.

86. CORRESPONDENCE

- a Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Order at Tunstall Road received from County Council.
- b Invitation to attend Local Government International Twinning Workshop at Wolverhampton on 7 December. To be forwarded to Twinning Association.
- c Letter received from Biddulph Rotary requesting sponsorship of Christmas sleigh run. *Agreed.*
- d Reply re speeding traffic on Thames Drive received from County Council. It was agreed to write to Staffordshire Police enclosing a copy of this letter. Also to write in 4 weeks highlighting similar problems in Woodhouse Lane and Pennine Way.

A request was made that a letter be sent forthwith requesting improved road closed signs at the top and bottom of John Street, as HGV's keep meeting in the middle. Also to request additional diversion signs at John Street and on Meadows Way for through traffic. This was Agreed.

87. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

Councillor J Harrison spoke about the road humps in town, which are sinking, broken bricks and water collecting. It was pointed out that the Civic committee are dealing with this item.

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- a Councillor Jones attended a Health Scrutiny Panel meeting with Mr Catlin and Mr Marsh of the W Midlands Ambulance Service, who did not receive a friendly welcome. There is no legal basis to First Responders not using drugs as before, just governance (re how drugs are obtained, supplies replenished, safe storage etc). They should get back to a reasonable state of affairs within the next few months.
- b Councillor Booth attended the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association AGM on 4 November. All officers were re-elected, President is Councillor Mrs Phyllis Bailey. Justin Griggs, NALC Head of Development, spoke about the Local Government White Paper. David Kidney encouraged everyone to buy as much food and drink locally as they could. Staffordshire Ambulance Service – all Staffs MP's have written letters about the legality of the situation.
- c Councillor Hart had visited Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council to see the regeneration projects in the town centre and is to visit Crewe. The visits had been worthwhile, very interesting.

The Deputy Chair asked all Councillors giving reports on meetings attended to provide a brief summary to the Town Administrator prior to the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed Date