

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 6 JULY 2021, 6PM  
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR  
AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:**

- **The Mayor:**
  - Councillor S Rushton
- **Deputy Mayor:**
  - Councillor J Garvey
- Councillor E E Baddeley
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor D A Hall
- Councillor A H Hart
- Councillor D J Hawley
- Councillor K H Jackson
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor C R Perkin
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor H M Sheldon MBE
- Councillor G Swift
- Councillor N R Yates

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Ms Esther Gladstone – Finance and Administration Officer
- 2 Members of the Public

**APOLOGIES:**

- Councillor G S Adams
- Councillor J Davies
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Councillor J P Redfern
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C M Smith

Prior to commencing the meeting, the Chief Officer outlined the etiquette for those speaking at the Town Meeting, for the benefit of those viewing remotely.

**1. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 21 May 2019 were confirmed.

## **2. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Councillor Jones gave a review from the 2020-21 Mayoral Year, which had been heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Garvey read a summary of key points in the Annual Report and outlined where copies could be viewed and obtained.

The Annual Report and unedited financial statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 were received.

## **3. PRESENTATION ON TOWN COUNCIL CURRENT AREAS OF WORK**

Councillor Hall gave an update on the work of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee. The Committee ensures adequate resources are in place to carry out the actions the Council, oversees the action plan and reviews the budget and precept requirements. Councillor Hall noted that the work carried out in 2020-21 included reviewing policies, taking on new staff with the management of the Town Hall, renovating the Visitor Centre and undertaking a number of town centre re-developments.

Councillor Hart presented an update regarding the work of the Recreation and Amenities Committee. Work undertaken includes funding the 93 bus, which has continued to support the community during the Covid-19 pandemic and maintaining pathways under the lengthsman schemes. The allotment sites and Burial Grounds are maintained and constantly kept under review.

Councillor McLoughlin summarised the work of the Town and Community Committee. The second phase of the Station Road regeneration is due to commence shortly, work to transfer the management of the Wharf Road toilets to Biddulph Town Council is underway and plans are in place to create a 'changing place' facility on the site. The Committee has considered how to promote cycling in the town and how to support environmental change.

## **4. FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS ABOUT THEIR PROJECTS (FROM PRESENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY)**

The Chief Officer gave a summary of the presentations by local community groups that had taken place throughout the day, via Zoom. These are available on Facebook for people to re-watch.

Biddulph Local People's Project are undertaking a number of activities to support adults over the age of 50, including craft and social activities and a book exchange. The group also operates a Blue Badge drop in session and hopes to be able to support a wider group of people going forward.

Biddulph Youth and Community Zone has been open since 2015, and now provides services to young people and adults of all ages. In addition to numerous social and fitness groups, fruit and veg boxes are available for a small cost and food is often given away through the group.

Staffordshire Libraries discussed their Children's Summer Reading Challenge which is designed to help children maintain and improve their reading skills throughout the summer. They are also operating a scheme where books can be read to customers.

Biddulph Police gave a presentation on being more than an emergency service. They explained that numerous issues including ASB and Noise are undertaken in coordination with the District Council and processes to respond to such issues can be quite lengthy. Police also have limited powers in relation to parking, and much of the enforcement action is carried out by District and County Councils. In addition, the police also gave an update on the Herbert Protocol which is available to support those experiencing dementia and their families respond in the instance that a person goes missing.

Councillor Rogers said he wanted to request that the Police do accept lost property.

Councillor Yates asked if the Town Council could provide a local short-term lost property facility.

Councillor Sheldon asked if there was a date for the opening of Station Road Gardens. The Chief Officer clarified that the Town Council is waiting for lockdown restrictions to ease before commissioning the fountains and reinstating the benches.

## **5. OPEN FORUM**

A member of the public asked for up-to-date details of the Biddulph PSCOs. The Chief Officer said that there had been a very recent change of PSCOs and offered to pass the person's details on to the Police to make in contact.

Councillor Yates suggested that the Town Council maintain contact information of Staffordshire Police in the Town on the website.

The meeting was closed at 6.36pm

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