

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2022, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **Deputy Mayor:**
 - Councillor J Garvey
 - Councillor J Davies
 - Councillor K Harper
 - Councillor K H Jackson
 - Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Councillor C R Perkin
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor H M Sheldon MBE
- 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
- Mr Eric Cox

Councillor Rogers queried whether the Committee would agree to an emergency item to consider a response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Councillor Garvey seconded this proposal; it was agreed that this issue would be considered after the guest speaker had completed his presentation.

61. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for:

- The Mayor – Councillor S Rushton
- Councillor E E Baddeley
- Councillor J P Redfern
- Councillor C M Smith
- Councillor G Swift

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:** Councillor Sheldon declared an interest in any item relating to Biddulph in Bloom.

- b) **Other Interests:** Councillor Jones is a member of the Royal British Legion.

63. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 8 February 2022 were approved; proposed by Councillor Perkin, seconded by Councillor Garvey.
- b) The Civic Events Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 7 March 2022 were received; proposed by Councillor McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor Rogers. Councillor Jones had sent apologies for this meeting.
- c) The Environment and Climate Change Working Group Notes from the meeting held on 17 February 2022 were received; proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Sheldon. Councillor Garvey had sent apologies for this meeting.

64. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MR ERIC COX - AN UPDATE ON ARTS ACTIVITY IN BIDDULPH

Mr Eric Cox provided background to the arts activity in Biddulph over the past few years. Mr Cox was concerned that the Arts Forum in Biddulph currently had no identity; there was no Treasurer, as there was no funds. He explained the process of grant funding, which was currently administered by Support Staffordshire; £37,500 had been available recently as a result of 'rolled over' funding from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC). Funding was allocated by a panel.

Mr Cox was concerned that the 'losers' in this approach were the small individual groups, but Biddulph hadn't done too badly. Mr Cox provided more detail as to how funds had previously been allocated by Arts Forums.

Councillor Yates was concerned that peripatetic music teaching had been lost across the County; the Biddulph and District Community and Youth Orchestra had suffered.

Councillor Sheldon agreed with Mr Cox's analysis that smaller groups had been disadvantaged.

Mr Cox wondered whether a new arts group could be created: SMARTS, could be a separate group to the Support Staffordshire work. Councillor Jackson had deja-vu; this funding scenario had also happened with the Sports Council. He felt it would be beneficial to speak to Esther Jones from Support Staffordshire.

Councillor Yates wondered whether the Town Council should establish a group.

The Chief Officer queried whether this issue should be referred to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee as part of the grants analysis.

Councillor Yates proposed that an arts group should be established; this would be a Working Group with non-Council members, and would report into the Town and Community Committee. Seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Davies felt there should be an independent group that did not form part of the Town Council structure. Councillor Yates modified his proposal; the Town Council would support the creation of the Arts Forum. Seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

The Chief Officer would work with Mr Cox to consider this piece of work; a further update would be provided. The Committee thanked Mr Cox for attending.

EMERGENCY ITEM

Councillor Rogers felt it was important to consider collection and fundraising activities with the town, to support Ukrainian refugees. Councillor Rogers wondered whether Councillors could help at the Victoria Centre.

Councillor Jackson felt this was a terrible situation for those who are displaced; it seemed that advice was to give money, if people are able to.

Councillor Yates thought that clarity was needed around the priorities.

Councillor Davies noted that there were issues with mixed goods at customs. It may also be necessary to consider the re-housing of refugees.

Councillor Jones felt that the giving of items was an emotional response, and would help out at the Victoria Centre. He did not feel it was appropriate to expand this provision across the town.

Councillor Perkin asked that further information is shared with Councillors as to how they can help.

Councillor Sheldon felt that Ukrainian refugees would be traumatised, and would need money to re-establish themselves.

Councillor Rogers thanked fellow Councillors for their consideration of this issue; it was too important to wait another month.

Councillor Yates noted that the Disasters Emergency Committee funding was match-funded by the government; money knows no borders.

Councillor Garvey asked that the Town Council's website is updated, highlighting the priority issues. Seconded by Councillor Yates. Agreed.

65. TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOGO FOR THE CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW

Councillor Davies updated members that the Classic Vehicle Show was now an established date within the Town Council diary. As such, he felt it needed a professional logo that could be included within all advertising, which would be recognisable. Examples of logos produced by a local artist were distributed, for consideration.

The Chief Officer noted that the Town Council needed the new logo to be in a number of different formats to enable use on social media, printed press, banners, etc. The cost of this design and development work would be £250, which had been benchmarked against other design options.

Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed. It was agreed that a draft would be presented for consideration.

66. TO CONFIRM PRINTING COSTS FOR THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES LEAFLET

The Chief Officer noted that the Clubs and Societies booklet (created by the Town Council) was being distributed widely across the town to encourage involvement in activities, as part of an attempt to reduce levels of social isolation.

Three quotations were considered; the agreed cost was £556 for 100 booklets. Proposed by Councillor Perkin; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed. It was agreed that this would be completed forthwith to enable the booklets to be available for the Energy Costs Café and Rediscover Biddulph events.

67. TO CONSIDER CCTV REQUIREMENTS FOR STATION ROAD

The Chief Officer asked Town Councillors for their views on the provision of CCTV at the Station Road site. She understood that the current cameras did not stretch as far as the Garden area, where there were regular reports of anti-social behaviour. Should Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) be asked to fund an extension to the current system, or should the Town Council fund this provision?

Councillor Yates wondered whether another business could host additional provision.

Councillor Perkin felt a survey of the site would be appropriate.

Councillor Jackson felt that SMDC monitoring was key. Additional provision here could replace the provision that had been removed.

This approach was seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed. The Chief Officer would also investigate the costs of a survey.

68. TO CONSIDER TOURISM MERCHANDISE THAT CAN BE SOLD WITHIN THE TOWN HALL

Councillors were presented with a number of options for consideration.

Merchandise:

The creation of a water bottle with 'Garden Town' logo:

Co Brand with Chilly Water Bottle £16.35

Cheaper Alternative £10.13

Ordnance Survey Maps

A wide selection could be provided: Stoke & Macclesfield, Crewe Nantwich, Stoke & Newcastle, White Peak, Cheshire and Peak Circulars for a £200 purchase.

In the Foyer of the Town Hall

The proposal is to turn the inside of the cubicle into a home for the book exchange organised by the Biddulph Local People's Project, based on the Telephone Box idea. Shelving for books would be installed, with smart shelving on the outside.

In addition to these ideas, Councillor Yates felt the Town Council should develop a tea towel, and maybe aprons and shopping bags.

Councillor Perkin thought a Biddulph teddy would be a good idea.

Councillor Jones liked the idea of a small 'Garden Town' watering can.

Councillor Davies felt that cards with the calendar photographs should be considered.

Councillor McLoughlin thought that people would purchase good quality prints of photographs from the calendars.

It was agreed to proceed with the ideas above, and to investigate costs for the additional suggestions.

69. TO CONSIDER LOCAL HERITAGE LISTINGS (ATTACHED)

Councillor Sheldon and the Finance and Administration Officer had carried out a piece of work to create local heritage listings; this process had initially been considered pre-pandemic. Councillors had been presented with a table highlighting those applications that were ready to be sent, and others that required further work, but needed a sponsor.

Councillor Sheldon explained that this status did not give additional protection, but made the sites 'relevant' in the history of the town.

There was consideration of how these had been identified. The Chief Officer confirmed that anyone could identify a site, but would need to use the attached documentation to work up this proposal.

Councillor Davies supported this work, it highlighted the important social background for buildings that had no other designation. It is the bottom tier of preservation, but may help to attract funds. Councillor Sheldon agreed; this was about the social and historic use of a building.

Councillor Perkin proposed that those shaded green should be submitted to the District Council for consideration; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

Councillor Jackson abstained. Councillor Yates wondered whether this could be a standard agenda item on the Planning Committee agenda in future; proposed by Councillor Garvey, seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

70. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SPRING EVENTS

Councillors received the following dates:

Month	Event	Detail
March	Energy Costs Cafe	Saturday, 19 th 10am-1.00pm Biddulph Town Hall

Month	Event	Detail
	Dementia Friendly Cinema	Wednesday, 30 th March 1.30pm Biddulph Town Hall
April	Rediscover Biddulph – Volunteer Fair	Friday, 8 th April 10.00-1.00pm Biddulph Town Hall
	Mayor's Ball	Friday, 29 th April 7pm Onwards Biddulph Town Hall
May	Alberts 100 th Birthday	Friday, 29 th at 11am Cenotaph – A brief reflection. Sunday, 1 st May 11am Cenotaph TBC Talk by BDGHS
	Twilight Market	Friday, 6 th May 3.30pm-7.30pm Biddulph Town Hall
	V.E. Day Big Band Dance	Saturday, 14 th May Biddulph Town Hall
	Biddulph Business Breakfast in Partnership with Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce	Thursday 19 th May 8.30am Biddulph Town Hall
June	Jubilee Celebrations including Beacon & Family Entertainment	Thursday, 2 nd June 7pm Onwards Knypersley Cricket Club
	100 Years on Knypersley Parish Jubilee Lunch	Saturday, 4 th June TBC St Johns, Knypersley
	Civic Service & Afternoon Tea	Sunday, 5 th June 2.00pm Christ Church, Biddulph Moor

This was received.

71. TO CONFIRM ANTICIPATED COSTS FOR ALBERT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY EVENTS AND THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Chief Officer noted that there was a budget for cleaning and maintenance of the cenotaph. Cleaning would be needed in advance of the 29 April and 1 May events. There is no cost to using the Biddulph Male Voice Choir at the 1 May event; this would form part of their centenary anniversary programme. Advertising would be necessary, and the creation of a brochure. This would be taken to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting for further consideration. The expected expenditure for the birthday and jubilee events was likely to be more than the budgets agreed; funding would need to be re-allocated from another source.

The Chief Officer noted that the Town Council could apply for £1000 from the District Council for Jubilee activities; there may be additional grants available from elsewhere. The Town Council should support the groups who had agreed to host Jubilee activities. The Civic Events Working Group had also looked at giving young people Jubilee coins (reception to Year 4); the expected cost of this was £2400, but these could also be sold.

There was consideration of the restoration of the cenotaph; it may not be possible to do this as listing had taken place and there was a debate about restoration or 'graceful ageing'.

Proposed by Councillor Garvey that these projects were appropriate, and a budget should be allocated; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

72. TO APPROVE THE RE-VAMPED MARKET FORMAT

Councillors received a brief note, which proposed:

Weekly - The Town Council should encourage more regular Friday trading on the Frontage.

Bi-Monthly - The Twilight Market will be held on the first Friday of the month starting in May. It will run every other month. Plus a Christmas edition with carols around the tree. Utilising the Town Hall frontage for food, outdoor items and summer seating, the Town Hall foyer, Hall, kitchen

and bar with the stage for live music. This will take place 3.30 -7.30 initially (subject to people's shopping habits). Existing traders who wish to trade in the day on the first Friday can continue to do so. This is a flexible format based on community need. i.e. focus on what's on and available.

Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.43pm.

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