

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,  
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022, 6.30PM  
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

**PRESENT:**

- **Deputy Mayor:**
  - Councillor C Perkin
  - Councillor J Davies
  - Councillor K Harper
  - Councillor K J Jackson
  - Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor A J McLoughlin (Chair)
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor N R Yates

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance and Governance Officer
- Mrs Susan Booth – Customer Support Assistant
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor A Hart

**20. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded for:

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

**21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None declared.
- b) Other Interests: None declared.

## 22.MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 21 June 2022 were **approved**. Proposed by Councillor Perkin, seconded by Councillor Rogers. Voted in favour.
- b) The Notes from the Mining Memorial Working Group meeting held on 23 May 2022 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Yates. Voted in favour.
- c) The Notes from the Mining Memorial Working Group meeting held on 20 June 2022 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Harper. Voted in favour.

It was agreed to defer receiving the Notes from the Environment and Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 16 June 2022 until the September meeting.

## 23.ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR GARVEY

*To consider:*

- a) a Garden Show event*
  - b) future Yarnbombing activities*
- a) The Events and Partnerships Officer confirmed a garden show event had been planned previously for May/June, offering garden furniture and equipment, talks about Biddulph Old Hall and Biddulph Grange Gardens, floral displays, how to make a hanging basket, garden design for the modern home, environmental planting, allotments, planting for well-being, ancient trees and how to identify them, a mini garden competition for children, etc. The event was postponed due to Covid-19.

Councillors Jones and Hart agreed it was a good idea. Councillor Jones proposed the Events and Partnerships Officer start to contact traders/suppliers, seconded by Councillor Perkin. All in favour.

- b) Councillor McLoughlin confirmed an email had been received from Councillor Garvey seeking approval for the yarn-bombing group to do more yarn-bombing, in particular around Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

It was agreed the cenotaph was too fragile for any yarn-bombing activity and the railings around it needed to be un-used, as wreaths need to be

attached to it. It was suggested any adjacent street furniture could be decorated, together with the Town Hall frontage.

Any future yarn-bombing activities in relation to Town Council managed areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **24. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY**

Councillor Mcloughlin proposed the Christmas Lights 'Switch-On' would be as previous years on the last Saturday of November, with a Market and Carol Concert the following Friday. A Christmas tree and lights would be supplied for the separate Biddulph Moor event.

Councillor Jones advised he and Councillor Hawley wouldn't be organising the Christmas Lights 'Switch-On' at Biddulph Moor this year – they were ready to hand over to other Biddulph Moor residents. There was discussion as to whether the event would still be insured under the 'Council umbrella' – the Chief Officer agreed to seek clarification from the Council's insurers and to arrange a meeting with Councillors Jones and Hawley, together with their volunteers and our Events and Partnerships Officer to agree a way forward.

It was agreed the Events and Partnerships Officer could start to contact and cost entertainment for the proposed events – to bring back to the Committee in September for approval. Proposed by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Perkin. All in favour.

## **25. TOWN COUNCIL ITEM: TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

The Chief Officer confirmed she had met with Councillor Keith Flunder and Neil Rogers, the Executive Director of Regeneration at SMDC, together with Councillors Hall, Jackson and Rogers. They had lobbied hard that Shared Prosperity funding needs to come to Biddulph. The Chief Officer had a list of consultation questions to provide answers to by the next day. She asked District Councillors to lobby for the funding too.

Councillors Yates and Salt shared their understanding of why the Levelling Up funding had gone to Leek and Cheadle – in summary because they had fully worked up schemes that were 'ready to go' and therefore the Government

money could be used to finance them. They also shared their concerns about the need for start up business units in Biddulph. Consideration was given to an empty building in the High Street and whether the Town Council could develop it as part of town centre regeneration.

It was agreed the Council needs to push with the ideas already tabled for the Shared Prosperity Fund. The Chief Officer would reply to the District Council the next day.

## **26. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED TOWN HALL CAFÉ**

The Chief Officer confirmed she had put in a bid for Co-op funding (£15,000), which could provide support in other venues in the town – not just at the Town Hall.

Mark Bailey, who provides the Town Hall bar, is running a project with Congleton Town Council providing free food – people can make a contribution or pay nothing and he had suggested doing something similar in Biddulph working with the Town Council.

It was agreed that a working group meeting of those organisations in the town that want to be part of the initiative would be set up towards the end of August, and that contingency funding should be considered at the next Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting, just in case the money wasn't received from the Co-op, or through other bids.

## **27. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MOORLANDS PARTNERSHIP BOARD PROJECTS**

The Chief Officer distributed a quotation of the potential repair/replacement of railings at Station Road. Councillor Sheldon had been keen to progress this as one of the gateways to the town. It was suggested the Town Council could submit a request to the Moorlands Partnerships Board for half the funding. Councillor Yates raised concerns about the wall beneath the railings and whether more repair was required, not just replacement railings. He also suggested the removal of the steps to create disabled access.

It was agreed the Chief Officer would get a survey with regard to the condition of the wall to give everyone an understanding of the full remedial work

involved and submit a quote to the Board with regard to the wall, disabled access and the railings, following consultation with residents. Proposed by Councillor Yates, seconded by Councillor Jones and approved.

*Councillor Garvey joined the meeting at 7.51pm.*

*Councillor Hart left the meeting at 7.53pm.*

## **28. TO CONSIDER FOOTFALL ANALYSIS ON THE HIGH STREET**

Central Government 'Welcome Back' funding had provided footfall analysis data for the High Street (based on mobile phone data collecting people's location on the High Street). The information was shared electronically.

The Chief Officer explained how we can use the data to prove how many people were attracted to any particular event, or on certain days of the week.

All felt this provided good baseline data, which had been missing previously.

Councillor Jackson suggested the information is shared with the emerging business chamber. This was agreed.

## **29. TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FROM THE MINING MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP THAT A MEMORIAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT STATION ROAD, CELEBRATING INDUSTRIES AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE TOWN**

The Chief Officer confirmed the Working Group had suggested a memorial to other important industries within the town (forge, textiles/mills, nursing, transport, farming, blue dye works, quarrying) be commissioned for the Station Road site. A mosaic set into the ground had been considered as a suitable option.

Councillor Jones proposed the Working Group come up with a potential design and cost, seconded by Councillor Perkin. Voted in favour.

The meeting ended at 8.07pm.

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