

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **The Mayor:**
Councillor J Garvey
- **Deputy Mayor:**
Councillor C Perkin
- Councillor J Davies
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor C M Smith (Chair)
- 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
- Councillor J Salt
- Mr James Connolly (Biddulph Chronicle)

30. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for:

- Councillor E E Baddeley (Absent)
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Councillor J P Redfern (Absent)
- Councillor S Rushton
- Councillor G Swift (Absent)
- Councillor N R Yates

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

32. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 19 July 2022 were **approved**.
- b) The Notes from the Young People's Working Group meeting held on 14 July 2022 were **received**.
- c) The Notes from the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 29 September 2022 were **received**.

33. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

The Events and Partnerships Officer confirmed the Biddulph Christmas Lights Switch On would take place on Saturday 26 November 2022. Switch on would be at 6pm in the High Street. Road closure paperwork had been submitted, there was a meeting planned with Rotary to discuss Santa's attendance, there would be free activities available, together with hot chocolate and mince pies.

The Chief Officer confirmed the Council has a contractual relationship with Protech and is required to honour this whether the Christmas lights go up or not. Therefore, they'll be put up and the Council will provide work towards making this a good and cheap event for families.

There will be a Christmas Twilight Market and Sing-Along on Friday 2 December 2022, from 3.30pm.

34. TO CONSIDER HOLDING A DOG SHOW WITHIN THE TOWN

The Events and Partnerships Officer advised Emma from Darwin's Pet Supplies would like to hold a dog show in the town centre at Easter time 2023. It was agreed the Town Council would support Emma in organising the event.

35. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL'S TOURISM STRATEGY

The Chief Officer confirmed there had been an event at the Town Hall held on the previous Friday, which all Councillors had been invited to, together with those in the community involved in tourism activities. A consultant had presented a vision for how they thought tourism in the District should be taken forward. The Chief Officer felt those in attendance had managed to convey the

views of the Town Council with regard to promoting tourism in Biddulph. Councillor Garvey agreed it had been an excellent start to establish the current position and future aspirations.

Councillor Lawton thought the consultant had offered good ideas and information; to look at what is already available, if we're making the best of it and to promote what we've got. He'd approached the library and they would be happy to display the Town Council's tourism documents if the Town Council provided a display rack. It was agreed that this was appropriate.

36. TO APPROVE SPENDING £150 ON DESIGNS FOR STATION ROAD ARTWORK TO COMMEMORATE INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE TOWN

The Chief Officer advised she had met with a local artist to consider the creation of proposed artwork at Station Road; a memorial to important industries within the town (such as textiles/mills, nursing, transport, farming, blue dye works, quarrying, etc). Young people would be fundamental to the creation of this. Councillors agreed to approve spending on a proposed design. Proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Garvey.

37. TO REVIEW THE REQUIREMENT FOR A TELEVISION TO BE PURCHASED AND INSTALLED WITHIN THE RECEPTION

The Chief Officer noted that this proposal had previously been considered alongside enhancements to the external lighting of the building. She queried whether the television was something that Councillors still wished to consider. This would display adverts for events in the town. Councillors suggested a more flexible option - buying a TV on a commercial stand instead, so it could be moved to other parts of the building and not just used in the reception area. Proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Garvey and agreed.

38. TO RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP THAT A WATER FOUNTAIN SHOULD BE INSTALLED OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL TO SUPPORT THE REFILL PROGRAMME

Councillors agreed to approve the installation, proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Garvey, with the caveat that the location was not set in stone and should be considered in the Town Hall frontage plan.

39. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer advised that 420 tree saplings were being delivered – to be planted at Thatcher Grove on Saturday 12 November 2022. The area was to be mown beforehand. The Council would be looking for volunteers to provide support.

40. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON the ‘BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER’ PROJECT

The Chief Officer distributed an emerging timetable of venues offering food and activities; it wasn't yet finalised as the Council is waiting on some groups to confirm their offering. The Chief Officer talked through which events the Town Council has agreed to fund.

Councillor Salt talked about a situation she'd come across in her ward and how the Council could get food to people who don't want or can't leave their homes. Councillor Smith and Councillor Salt would like to batch cook for identified families and deliver meals to them, and requested whether the Town Council would consider their expenses in providing this facility. It was agreed the Town Council would fund £100 initially for food – to be approved at the Finance Strategy and Management Committee, to ensure transparency.

Councillor Jackson asked if the Town Council had heard from the District Council with regard to funding. The Chief Officer confirmed a meeting had been arranged.

41. COUNCILLOR LAWTON TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON BIDDULPH AND DISTRICT GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECTS

Councillor Lawton talked about the work of the Society; their investigation of the lives and history of local soldiers who fell in World War One and their interrogation of the recently released 1921 census to build a picture of Biddulph in 1921 compared with the 1911 census.

Councillors suggested using their discretionary grants (up to £250) to provide support to the Society. Councillor Jackson recommended applying for an SMDC arts grant (up to £500). It was agreed the Chief Officer and Councillor Lawton would talk further and do more investigation; Councillor Lawton to explore

costs and potential sources of funding. It would then be clear what support was needed from the Town Council.

42. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BIDDULPH NORTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Chief Officer confirmed the Biddulph North Residents Association had stopped meeting and had transferred £313.36 to the Town Council (the money left in their account at closure).

The Chief Officer suggested writing to the group to thank them for their work and asked Councillors if they wanted to spend the money on something in Biddulph North. Councillors Rogers and Perkin thought it would be nice to spend the unexpected funds on a community project supporting the north ward. It was agreed Biddulph North Councillors should come up with ideas and bring them back to the Committee to approve.

Councillor Rogers left the meeting at 19.57pm.

43. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Chief Officer confirmed road closures had been requested and the usual format would be followed. Attendees would meet at 10.20am; the Town Crier order the parade just after 10.30am for wreath laying at the Cenotaph, followed by a Civic Service at the Methodist Church and refreshments. Councillor Garvey advised yarnbombing would cover the post box, etc.

45. TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING A TRIP TO THE BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM – AN ADDITIONAL ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SALT

Councillors agreed to consider this item, which had not been included within the original agenda.

Councillor Salt advised that the approved trip to the National Memorial Arboretum had not gone ahead as James Bateman School had also arranged a trip. She would like to arrange an alternative trip to the Black Country Museum, using her discretionary grant to fund the cost of the bus and wondered if the Town Council could support by contributing to the cost of tickets. Councillor Perkin proposed redirecting the Council's previously

approved funding for the cost of a bus, seconded by Councillor Garvey and agreed.

Mr James Connolly left the meeting at 20.07pm.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded.

44. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM BIDDULPH METHODIST CHURCH FOR FUNDING A BEREAVEMENT WORKER

There was consideration of a proposal.

The meeting closed at 20.23pm.

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