

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

PRESENT:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • The Mayor: | • Councillor J T Jones |
| Councillor J Garvey | • Councillor A Lawton |
| • Deputy Mayor: | • Councillor W Rogers |
| Councillor C Perkin | • Councillor C M Smith |
| • Councillor J Davies | • Councillor A J McLoughlin |
| • Councillor K J Jackson | (Chair) |

Councillors Jackson and Jones were in attendance but did not sign the attendance sheet.

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 Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor J Salt
- Philip Hardaker
- Mr James Connolly – Biddulph Chronicle

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for:

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

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillors Jones, Salt and Smith declared an interest in The Royal British Legion, with regard to item 53.
- b) Other Interests: None declared.

48. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 18 October 2022 were **approved**.
- b) The Notes of the Christmas Lights Working Group on 20 October 2022 were **received**.
- c) The Notes from the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 20 October 2022 were **received**.
- d) The Notes of the Young People's Working Group meeting held on 1 November 2022 were **received**.

49. PHILIP HARDAKER IN ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSS STATION ROAD ART PROJECT

Mr Hardaker, a community and educational artist, discussed a potential art project at Station Road gardens. He presented draft drawings of a sculpture which incorporates the industries in the town using mosaic tiles. Mr Hardaker suggested working with several different groups; school children, Councillors and community groups. It was also suggested to include CCTV into the art piece. Councillors were in favour of this project. It was agreed to provide costings and create a detailed design. Proposed by Councillor Garvey and seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Philip Hardaker left the meeting at 7:05pm

50. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Ms Hancock confirmed the road closure at 10am for the Christmas light switch-on, which would take place on 26 November, and gave details about the activities to take place. A food voucher will be provided for volunteers to receive a meal and an email would be sent out with all details.

51. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON DEMENTIA SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer stated that Terry and Keith, who volunteered and helped with the set-up of the Dementia Friendly cinema sessions, have now finished and the caretakers have taken this role on. It was reported that the cinema continues to work well, with new people in attendance. The Chief Officer explained that the team is working with Approach to deliver a new training/awareness model and will update the Council's Dementia Action Plan in the New Year.

52. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER PROJECTS

The Chief Officer reported that the 'A warm welcome' brochure is being distributed, a copy will be inserted into the Biddulph Times newspaper. Councillor Garvey questioned whether a laminated version of the document could be displayed on bus stops around the town. The Chief Officer confirmed that this was already planned, and larger posters were being created. There will be another meeting of the Group held before Christmas and it was explained that in January the community groups involved will report how many people have been helped throughout this time. They will also advise whether additional funds are required.

Councillor Jones explained that a proposal that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) allocate funds to Fuel Bank will go to the Cabinet today, he questioned how it can be accessed if successful. The Chief Officer stated that she will be completing Fuel Bank training, and will report back.

Councillors Salt, Jones and Rogers volunteered to help people to get to a Food Bank. A rota was discussed. Councillor Salt felt that a role was needed to help people circumnavigate these services.

The Chief Officer agreed to work up some of the ideas into an options paper and provide further information with regard to additional costs for the next Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting on 22 November.

It was noted that the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting would need to be moved to 6pm so that District Councillors could attend a meeting in the Chamber via teams beforehand.

53. TO NOTE CHANGES NEEDED TO THE WAR MEMORIAL

The Chief Officer reported that there are spelling mistakes on the town centre war memorial. There are two names that are spelt incorrectly and need to be corrected (Goldshaw should be Goldstraw and Nevill should be Neville). In addition, the 'dots' on VC should be amended. There may also need to be consideration of a separate memorial for Ellis Brough, who died in a munitions factory in Crewe.

Councillors agreed to approve the corrections, proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Garvey. The Chief Officer would seek costings.

54. ITEM REQUESTED BY CLLR SMITH- TO CONSIDER PROVISION FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS REQUIREMENTS

Councillor Smith explained that she had received a plea from parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) stating that the issues that were discussed and shared with the Town Council in June this year have not diminished. The parents feel isolated and are not being supported. There is a lack of sensory and safe spaces in the area. A toy and resource library were discussed, and a space to facilitate a soft play area.

Councillor Garvey stated that the Life Stream Church has soft play facilities, they may offer a SEND session. He agreed to contact Karen Bradley MP again and invite her to a meeting with the parents.

It was proposed a Working Group be set up to agree a way forward and recommend to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee that an allocation would be made from ear marked reserves funding. Proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin. All agreed.

The Chief Officer agreed to email Councillors with the date and time of the new Working Group, which would take place in the New Year.

55. TO CONFIRM PRIORITIES AND A PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR 2023-24

Consideration was given to income and expenditure to-date.

The Chief Officer talked through the Committee's current priorities and asked all to consider any projects they would like to take forward in 2023-24.

Councillor Salt suggested allocating a budget to health and wellbeing e.g., training courses for SEND.

Councillor Jones stated that the 93-bus budget will need to be increased. This would be considered as part of the Recreation and Amenities Committee budget.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

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