

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

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

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
- Councillor J Salt
- Mr James Connolly – Biddulph Chronicle

56. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for:

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

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None declared.
- b) Other Interests: Councillor Jones declared an interest with regard to confidential item 64.

58. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 15 November 2022 were **approved**. Proposed by Councillor Perkin, seconded by Councillor Smith.
- b) The Notes of the Christmas Lights Working Group on 10 November 2022 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Garvey, seconded by Councillor Rogers.
- c) The Notes of the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 30 November 2022 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor Jackson.
- d) The Notes of the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 8 December 2022 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Garvey, seconded by Councillor Yates.

59. TO CONSIDER THE EMERGING EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR 2023

The Chief Officer tabled a draft calendar of events for 2023; it was suggested that the Town Council should hold a number of health and wellbeing themed events throughout the year. It is important that workloads and resources are managed effectively, rather than adding additional events throughout the year.

Councillor Rogers questioned whether the bereavement group has connection with the new bereavement officer for Biddulph. The Chief officer explained that this project was a partnership with Beth Johnson Foundation, but the Town Council would engage with this new role.

Councillor Jackson questioned whether the local care homes attend dementia- friendly projects. It was confirmed that they do.

Councillor Garvey suggested that there could be a twinning with a third world toilet, as part of the social media celebration of public toilets.

Councillor Smith reported that there is a regular 'Grave Talk' meeting that takes place in Congleton and wondered whether this could be incorporated into the bereavement sessions.

Councillor Salt questioned whether Period Power is provided in the Town Hall and public toilets. The Chief Officer confirmed that this is available in the Town Hall.

The Chief Officer noted that further consideration would be needed in relation to Markets.

Councillor Smith suggested that the proposed Changing Place toilet could be incorporated into the 'toilet week' theme event. The Chief Officer reported that the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has been approached about the empty block on Wharf Road car park.

Councillor Salt suggested that the Toy Appeal could be moved to earlier in November.

The draft plan was agreed with some minor additions.

60. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON HERITAGE ACTIVITY

The Chief Officer reported that the funding received for activities at the Gillow Heath station and the Overton Road trough must be spent by March 2023. It was stated that the stone mason is currently working on the replacement trough and quotes are being received regarding the platform on Smokies Way; these will be approved at the Town Council meeting.

61. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON DEMENTIA SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors about their previous commitment to becoming a dementia friendly community. The Dementia Friendly Cinema continued to be well attended. The Approach carer's café had been an incredible success.

Officers were in the process of putting together leaflets that provide useful information.

Councillor Garvey proposed that these events continue and are supported by the Town Council; seconded by Councillor Jones, all agreed.

62. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON FAIRTRADE PROJECTS

The Chief Officer reported that she had met with a representative from the Biddulph Fairtrade Group. There was a competition that is currently being completed by local schools, this will help to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight in the first two weeks of March. Displays would be in the Town Hall reception and the Bus Hub. The Chief Officer noted that consideration was being given to a more permanent display in the Town Hall. The team were also putting together a leaflet to promote Fairtrade in the town.

63. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER PROJECTS

The Chief Officer reported that the office team are now issuing Foodbank vouchers and supporting people by topping up their gas and electric pre-payment meters.

The Chief Officer stated that after having several discussions around the gaps in provision, it has been identified that a person is required to help navigate the services available and support people through these processes. The Chief Officer is developing a specification for this role.

Councillor Salt stated that Staffordshire Moorland District Council has set up a fuel bank, referrals must go through 'beat the cold'.

There was discussion about how people can access support locally, and consensus that the work the Town Council has completed has made a difference. There was still some uncertainty about other measures that would be put in place by the District Council.

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.

64. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESPONSE IN RELATION TO FUNDING FOR THE BIDDULPH MOOR CHRISTMAS PARTY (EMAIL ATTACHED)

It was agreed to donate funding to support the Rotary Club Christmas event.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

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