

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 JULY 2023, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor S Fletcher
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor M A Hopkins
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor A C W Parkes
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor C Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor Jackson

Councillor Smith recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

8. APOLOGIES

- Councillor J T Salt
- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor D Proudlove (Absent)
- Councillor C Wood
- Councillor Yates (Arrived 8.12pm)

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) Other Interests: Councillor Parkes declared an interest in the activities discussed as part of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.
Councillor Kisicki declared that he is a volunteer for Biddulph In Bloom.

10. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 20 June 2023.
All **agreed**, the minutes were **signed**.
- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meeting held on 6 July 2023.
Proposed by Councillor Hopkins; seconded by Councillor Rogers. All **agreed**.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT COUNCIL TOURISM STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWING A MEETING ON 22 JUNE 2023

The Chief Officer reported on the items discussed at the meeting:

- It was identified that there will be a partnership forum to discuss actions in the Strategy.
- Town Council attendees Identified the tourism challenges, such as lack of accommodation.
- Frustration was expressed about the slow pace of projects, particularly involving the Assets Team.
- District Council attendees encouraged the Town Council to make a list of the projects that sit within their remit.
- There was discussion about the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- There was consideration of the implementation of EV charging points.
- There would be a follow-up meeting in September.

Councillor Rogers stated that there are several caravan parking sites in Biddulph and questioned whether they are being advertised.

The Chief Officer explained that the Destination Staffordshire website is a directory and currently there are four listings for Biddulph.

Councillor Garvey suggested encouraging local businesses in the community to register on the website.

Councillor Smith questioned whether there is a fee to join the directory. The Chief Officer explained that there has been some information filtered through and will investigate them. The free option would give you two photos and two lines of information.

Councillor Smith reported that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council focus was on Alton Towers. She would like to see data on how many people have engaged with the Destination Staffordshire website.

12. TO NOTE THAT 'D-DAY 80' IS IN 2024; DO COUNCILLORS WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS EVENT?

The Chief Officer tabled the PowerPoint presentation from national organisers, and detailed what would be involved:

- Light a beacon at 8.15pm
- National tribute
- Official Town Cry

The Chief Officer stated that the Town Council would need to register an interest.

Councillor Jackson suggested checking whether Biddulph has any residents involved in D-Day.

All agreed to register an interest and complete further investigation.

13. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR KISICKI- TO CONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF THE KNYPERSLEY POST BOX

Councillor Lawton reported that the post box at Knypersley store has been closed/sealed.

Councillor Lawton reported that he has been in communication with Royal Mail regarding this matter, he recited a response from Royal Mail which was received via email:

"Thanks for your email regarding a post box that's been sealed. I appreciate the concern this has caused and your reasons for contacting us. I can confirm that, after making enquiries with the Collection Planning Manager, there have been some issues in gaining access to the box as this is on private land. Regrettably due to these issues the box will have to be removed and will not be unsealed.

As part of our regulatory requirements, we must ensure that there's a post box within half a mile of at least 98% of all 'delivery points' (usually a customer's letter-box) nationally. As the current posting facilities in the above-mentioned area already meet these requirements, the box will not

be replaced.

Thank you for contacting us and I hope this resolves your enquiry."

Councillor Lawton gave details of the nearest post box locations and explained that there are limitations that have not been taken into account.

Councillor Kisicki reported that there had been a number of issues with the current landowner, and suggested a relocation.

Councillor Rogers proposed that the Chief Officer write to Royal Mail and request a relocation given the footfall of the post-box with a suggested location. Seconded by Councillor Garvey.

All agreed.

14. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR ROGERS- TO AGREE A DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING

It was suggested that 25th July following on from the Finance Strategy and Management Committee, 7.30pm would be suitable. All agreed.

15. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR YATES- TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL TREE PLANTING WITHIN THE TOWN AND ORDERING TREES

The Chief Officer reported on behalf of Councillor Yates that the Town Council had requested 420 sapling trees from the Woodland Trust.

Permission has been given to plant these on District Council Land, enhancing Biddulph Valley Way sites.

Councillor Smith questioned the time frame from order to delivery. The Chief Officer stated that they would be delivered during November.

Councillor Rogers questioned the logistics of moving the trees to Valley Way.

The Chief Officer stated that the packs would be 'working wood' and 'hedging'.

It was suggested to add to the Town and Community Committee agenda in September for planting volunteers.

All agreed.

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.

16. TO REVIEW THE POLICE REPORT ON CRIME PREVENTION IN THE TOWN CENTRE AND TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS

A report was received in relation to potential improvements that may be possible within the town; further investigations would take place.

17. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SALT- TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE STATION ROAD FOUNTAINS

It was agreed that a survey would be completed to assess whether these could be repaired.

18. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SMITH- TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MOSAIC PROJECT AT STATION ROAD

The Chief Officer would make investigations and query whether Shared Prosperity Funding could fund the community arts project.

19. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SALT- TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MINING LANTERNS

Councillor Garvey left the meeting at 8.00pm.

Councillor Yates entered the meeting at 8.14pm

This would be considered again in September following further investigations.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

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