

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- Councillor S Fletcher
- Councillor M A Hopkins
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)

Councillor Salt, Councillor Parkes and Councillor Yates 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 K Jackson

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

20. APOLOGIES

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor D Proudlove (Absent)
- Councillor C Wood (Absent)

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

22. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 18 July 2023. All **agreed** and **signed**.
- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Christmas Events Working Group meeting held on 25 July 2023. Moved by Councillor Salt; All **agreed**.
- c) To **receive** the Notes from the Christmas Events Working Group meeting held on 11 September 2023. Councillor Rogers suggested the quote for the bulbs be sent to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee. Moved by Councillor Rogers; all **agreed**.

23. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HERITAGE/ RESTORATION PROJECTS

The Chief Officer gave a presentation on the heritage and restoration projects that are completed and are ongoing within the town.

Councillor Yates questioned the Smokies Way project. With regard to the benches that are to be situated on the platform, had there been a recent consultation with the community to confirm whether the benches are required.

Councillor Kisicki questioned whether replica signage and a previous timetable would be displayed.

Councillor Lawton gave historical background to the Biddulph Valley Railway.

The Chief Officer outlined a number of possible Moorlands Partnership Board projects; Station Road art work, the railings at the top of Station Road including a structural report on the wall, ongoing restoration and re-lettering of Albert, the Town Hall frontage project.

Councillor Jackson gave a background on the Moorland Partnership Board, he explained that 50% match funding would be required for any application.

Councillor Parkes questioned whether the mining lanterns could be used as a project.

Councillor Kisicki supports the Station Road railing and walls to be completed. Councillor Salt supported the art installation in the Station Road area.

Councillor Yates suggested the stile in Marsh Green across the footbridge which is a heritage footpath.

Councillor Salt suggested the tunnel off Woodhouse Lane, which requires repair.

The Chief Officer will investigate and gain quotes for the works listed above.

24. TO CONSIDER BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER PRIORITIES AHEAD OF THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

The Chief Officer gave a brief outline of the Biddulph Works Together project from the previous year. At the meeting, she would ask whether organisations wished to be involved in similar activities this year.

There was a discussion around how to distribute the information to the community.

Councillor Salt stated that the Gas and Electric help requires more publicity; information should be sent to Councillors again, to ensure they understand the referral process.

The Chief Officer stated that she will report back on the priorities of the partners within the Biddulph Works Together group.

Councillor Jackson suggested that the Shared Prosperity Fund could be approached for funding to cover the projects within the Biddulph Works Together.

25. TO CONSIDER SHARED PROSPERITY FUND APPLICATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS (OVERVIEW ATTACHED) AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

The Chief Officer gave a presentation detailing the Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Chief Officer reported that a bid was submitted to fund guest speakers at the garden Event or Classic Vehicle Show in 2024. The grant of £4,000 has been offered, she questioned whether to accept the grant.

Councillor Yates proposed to use the funding as seed funding, an evening event for an 'audience with', to generate funds for future events, and enable the event program to be sustainable; seconded by Councillor Lawton. All **agreed**.

Councillor Jackson felt that the money could be used elsewhere and not on an event of this nature.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the Town Council has also been granted £8,000, for a revised feasibility study without the housing need assessment: the revised study would include:

Feedback from residents via face-to-face focus groups and online on the support and social needs for older people in the Biddulph community. Town Council officers would complete consultation with older people's groups via workshops and through paper/ online consultation aiming to identify gaps in services that can be filled through support and the ability to identify local groups/ individuals that can offer advice and guidance.

The Chief Officer stated that questionnaires could be funded to collate this information and venues could be hired in each ward to provide refreshments, to encourage face-to-face involvement.

Proposed by Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Yates. All **agreed**.

The Chief Officer reported that there are opportunities available for two new grant pots:

- Grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for a local civil society/community infrastructure grant.
- Community Enterprise grant, for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives, not for profit and social enterprises.

A number of options were considered such as the Town Hall frontage, and projects to support the regeneration of the High Street.

Proposed by Councillor Yates; seconded by Councillor Salt to investigate a range of options. Enquiries should be made as to whether more than one bid for each fund could be submitted. All **agreed**.

26. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BIDDULPH CALENDAR 2024 AND TO AGREE ASSOCIATED COSTS

The Chief Officer tabled three quotes for the production of the calendars, and questioned whether a tribute of the late Tony Lally should be in the calendar. All agreed this was a suitable gesture.

The quote received from Hanley Print, was Proposed by Councillor Yates; seconded by Councillor Salt. 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.

27. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE STATION ROAD FOUNTAINS

A report had been commissioned into the options for the repair of the fountains, and was received. Future actions were considered.

Councillor Yates left the meeting at 8.13pm

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

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