

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Councillor J I M Garvey | • Councillor A C Lawton |
| • Councillor S Fletcher | • Councillor W Rogers |
| • Councillor Hopkins | • Councillor C Smith (Chair) |
| • Councillor Kisicki | • Councillor J Salt |

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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

49. APOLOGIES

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor A Parkes (Absent)
- Councillor Proudlove (Absent)
- Councillor N Yates
- Councillor Wood (Absent)

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Salt declared an interest in relation to item 54.
- b) Other Interests: None.

51. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 21 November 2023. **Agreed** and **Signed**.

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 15 November 2023.
Received.
- c) To **receive** the Notes from the Young People's Working Group meeting held on 15 November 2023.
Received.
- d) To **receive** the notes from the Health and Wellbeing Working Group on 27 November 2023.
Received.

52. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED DEMENTIA ACTION PLAN

The Chief Officer had circulated the revised Dementia Action Plan. She reported that the Town Council have continued to work with various partners throughout the year and continues to support the community.

The Chief Officer stated that the Town Council continues to be an active member of the Stoke on Trent network. Staffordshire Police have adopted the 'Herbert' protocol which helps to locate missing people with dementia.

There was a discussion around the issues relating to the Town Hall not being able to become a 'Safe Place': A 'Safe Place' offers help if someone is anxious, scared or at risk while they are out and about and need support. The Town Council needs action via the County or District Councils to develop a 'Safe Space' status. Councillor Salt stated that she will pass on the information to the County and District Councils.

Councillor Smith suggested that a sensory bag could be provided at the dementia sessions. Councillor Salt agreed and suggested 'Twiddle muffs'.

Councillor Jackson suggested that help could be provided with form filling and applying for the Disabled Facilities Grant from the District Council.

All agreed to approve the advised actions.

53. TO CONSIDER A DRAFT PLAN OF TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS IN 2024

The Chief Officer tabled the event plan of 2024; this contained the proposed activities by the Town Council and the suggested social media campaigns.

Councillor Salt suggested that a 'local touch' be included into the social media posts.

Jackson suggested a celebration around the 30 years of Town Crier.

Councillor Salt questioned whether the mental health training will have been completed in time to promote the mental health week, and possibly once a month highlight a common issue on social media and how to access services locally.

Councillor Jackson suggested including wellbeing projects around Parkinsons.

Councillor Smith questioned whether the results have been collated from the data for the over 50s consultation. The Chief Officer reported that the initial response was that the community appreciated the chance to question officers and speak to professionals by them being out in the community. Councillor Smith suggested this could be linked to a repair café.

Councillor Rogers requested consideration around the 'folk in the park' event making a comeback.

All agreed that the events tabled should be developed.

54. TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR FILM SHOWINGS AND PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FILM HUB MIDLANDS

The Chief Officer tabled an email received from Film Hub Midlands and suggested that the first Fridays of each month become a film night at the Town Hall.

Councillor Smith reported that the 'miners wives' group' are looking for a venue to view films to raise awareness of the miners.

Councillor Garvey proposed to ask the Chief Officer to join the Film Hub as a member. All agreed.

55. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BIDDULPH WORKS TOGETHER RESEARCH PROJECT FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION TO THE GROUP AND TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS

Councillor Salt highlighted the draft report from the Biddulph Works Together research project. The list of recommendations were as follows:

- 1. The Community Research Team, the Biddulph Works Together stakeholders and Biddulph Town Council work on a logo that all partners can share on their literature/letterheads and within their community spaces to increase project identity.*
- 2. Biddulph Town Council continues to fund the Biddulph Works Together project and widens the aims of the project to tackling social isolation.*
- 3. Biddulph Town Council explores the creation of a trusted tradesperson guide or possibly a 'trades bank' where vetted professionals gift an hour of their time to the Biddulph Works Together project.*
- 4. Biddulph Town Council organises some inter-generational activity with young people / young adults alongside the older generations to share knowledge on subjects like cookery.*
- 5. Biddulph Town Council continues to fund the 93-bus service and works with partner organisations e.g., bus companies and the District and County Councils to procure more public transport options.*
- 6. Biddulph Town Council should continue to use methods like leaflet delivery, use of its online media and the local newspapers to promote the BWT project as well as local radio. It should also work with partners like the District Council to encourage them to share information on the BWT project via their platforms and mail shots.*
- 7. It should create larger posters for public spaces and help those who have sight impairments by rethinking the colour scheme.*
- 8. It should encourage a 'pledge' scheme where participants of groups are encouraged in some way to bring a friend to sessions.*
- 9. Biddulph Town Council works with volunteer groups to alleviate pressure points e.g., out-sourcing catering to free up volunteer time.*
- 10. Biddulph Town Council widely publicises its work on the BWT project, with the hope of encouraging more local authorities to do the same by sharing the report, producing a how to guide for local councils and giving presentations to neighbouring authorities.*
- 11. Biddulph Town Councils continues to supply food parcels and support its 'fuel bank'.*
- 12. Biddulph Town Council explores the opportunity to recruit a person who can help community members navigate the issues linked to poverty and isolation and bring them back into the community to access support services on offer.*
- 13. Biddulph Town Council continues to encourage the building of community networks.*

Councillor Smith gave thanks to Councillor Salt for the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Lawton to add the recommendations as a standing agenda item for Committees to discuss in more detail; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **Agreed**.

Councillor Salt abstained from the vote.

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.

56. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON STATION ROAD DEVELOPMENT

The Chief Officer reported on recent discussions.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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