

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Chief Officer introduced the Town Mayor. The Mayor invited Pastor Amy Wyatt to lead members in a time of prayer. The Town Mayor opened the meeting

Councillor Hall offered congratulations to Councillor Sheldon and her team. Biddulph in Bloom had been awarded Gold in the Heart of England Britain in Bloom competition. Councillor Hall added that Biddulph was far better for having Biddulph in Bloom than it would have been without it; long may it continue. Members joined in a round of Applause.

Councillor Sheldon responded; the results had been announced, but the full report had not been received, the awards would be displayed in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Salt
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Swift
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding

27.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PCSO Sherratt gave an update

- The 'Albion First' leaflet distribution had not been reported to the police by residents. Sergeant Slinn wished to thank Cllr Wood for making councillors and the police aware of the leaflet. The leaflet distribution has been recorded and retained by the police. The distribution of the leaflet and its content does not amount to an offence.
- There has been a series of incidents with the 'road closed' signs at the Artisan Market. At the market on 7 October, PCSO Powell and Shields will give passing attention at the end of the market
- St Johns Road shop – there has been a recent break in, the Police were aware of the offenders, further enquiries are taking place.

Councillor Rogers asked who was responsible for policing zig zag lines. PCSO Sherratt said it was a Police matter. However, they were snowed under at the moment and if they could be there, they would, but other things take priority.

Councillor Jackson clarified that it was not PCSO but Police, PCSO Sherratt said it was an offence and penalty points could be awarded.

Councillor McGuinness said that on market day a lady motorist moved the barriers, drove the wrong way on a one way street and sat in her car in the taxi rank all day.

PCSO Sherratt invited members to a Dogs Trust event to be held on 8 October 2016 at Knypersley Cricket Club, there would be a buffet and entertainment. All should let him know if they would like to attend.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations. Councillor Hart declared an interest in any matters concerning the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan to do with site specifics. Councillor Sheldon in any matters concerning Biddulph in Bloom. Minute 35 Councillors Davies and Rogers - expenses
- b) Other Disclosable Interests: Minute 34 Councillor Hall's wife was a member of the Biddulph Fairtrade group.

29. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Wood
Councillor Court
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jones
Councillor Nicosia

30. MINUTES

- a It was Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 16 August 2016.
- b The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 August 2016 were received.
- c The Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 8 September 2016 were received. Minute 14 Councillor Harper noted that he was impressed with the work ethic of the Chief Officer, who had adapted well. The Officer's professionalism in helping and guiding the Chief Officer had been appreciated. The Officer had a tremendous wealth of knowledge, and had eased the transition. This Council was fortunate to have two Officers with this range of skills and experience, and was on the 'winning track'.
- d The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2016 were received. Councillor Davies reported that consideration of Application SMD/2016/0395 by SMDC had been delayed; they are waiting for a bat survey.
- e The Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2016 were received.

31. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor thanked Councillor Sheldon and the Biddulph in Bloom team for their work around the town.

The Mayor reported that September had been a quiet month in comparison to the busy Festival period. However, the previous weekend The Mayor had attended the solemn consecration of English Martyrs church, meeting the Archbishop of Birmingham; the installation of Rev'd Steven Dyson as Vicar of St Lawrence's Church, meeting the Bishop of Stafford; and the welcoming service for Rev'd Nicholas Witham at the Methodist Church.

32. RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Mayor stated that it was important that this Council works with Young People, and proposed that the resolution be agreed. The Chief Officer read the resolution:

At the start of a new academic year there will be new Youth Advisors joining Biddulph Town Council from schools within the town.

Biddulph Town Council believes that young people are valuable as future adults, but have a crucial place in society now. Incorporating young people in decision-making leads to more vibrant, safer and sustainable communities. Biddulph Town Council will seek to improve services for young people, encourage participation in local government and empower young people to take decisions and action to improve their local community.

All agreed.

33. TO ADOPT THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Hall proposed that the Code was adopted upon clarification of the acceptance of gifts. The Chief Officer will seek further information from SMDC and send this out to Councillors electronically.

Councillor Redfern asked if there was documentation for a change of circumstance, the Chief Officer responded that there was and it must be completed within 28 days of the change.

All Agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct

34. FAIR TRADE CHAIN EVENT- REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM THE FAIR TRADE GROUP

Councillor Lovatt reported that Fairtrade Fortnight would be held from 27 February to 12 March 2017. The Biddulph group planned to work with schools to make chains and join them together outside Biddulph Town Hall. Biddulph Town Council was asked to support a road closure for the two hours of the event.

Councillor Harper noted that as partners, this Council should support the venture. All agreed.

The Fairtrade group would meet next on Wednesday 7 October 2016 at Sainsbury's Café to finalise plans. The event would be in March.

35. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

The following accounts were received for payment:

Severn Trent Water – Town Burial Ground	115.79
Severn Trent Water – Woodhouse Burial Ground	29.91
Brian Carter – open and close gates Woodhouse Burial Ground	40.00
AJ Environmental – annual mole control contract Woodhouse Burial Ground	280.00
V Brown – Events Director	787.92
V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Cllr Davies – fuel for tractor for Artisan Market	11.35
Market imprest – for stall construction	160.00
Biddulph in Bloom – 2 nd of 4 payments	5750.00
CJ Skelhorne – past Mayor’s badges – next 3 years	101.60
Mrs S Haydon – flowers for Cllr and Mrs Lawson	25.00
J Gaunt – replacement Town Council fridge	140.00
Viking – office supplies	266.56
(Subject to approval under agenda item 37 below	
Tree Heritage – landscaping layout fee	660.00
SMDC – discharge of planning conditions application fee	97.00)

The Mayor stated that these were no longer relevant in light of the information which would be presented at minute 37 below. The Chief Officer added that these had been included on the agenda to ensure that Councillors had clarity about payments that may be discussed.

E-on – footway lighting, energy and maintenance	2417.87
Kent County Council – copier quarterly contract	582.65
D Allcock - Lengthsman work - 475.00	
- Woodhouse Burial Ground – 60.00	535.00
Staffs Pension Fund	1333.29
Salaries	3546.77
HMR&C direct debit to be paid 1 September 2016	1427.39
Cllr Rogers – travel	25.00

Signed Date.....

The meeting was suspended at 7.33 pm and would continue after the close of the General Purposes Committee

The meeting resumed at 7.50 pm