

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Swift
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Adams
Councillor Davies
Councillor Deaville
Councillor Ellsum
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart - Chair
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Tolley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also in attendance:
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Walley

73.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Deane
Councillor Harper
Councillor Lovatt

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations:
- b Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon in any matters relating to Biddulph in Bloom, as Chairman. Councillor Tolley anything to do with Biddulph Youth and Community Centre

75. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 18 November 2014.
- b It was **Resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Burial Grounds Committee held on 9 December 2014.

76. OLIVE BRANCH PROJECT

Councillor Harper asked for this item to be deferred to a future meeting. Agreed.

77. YOUTH SERVICE

Antony Capostagno had been unable to attend the meeting; the topic would be raised at a future meeting. .This item had been deferred from the previous meeting

78. BIN REPLACEMENT

Information given from the Chair following a recent meeting with Robin Cummins from SMDC Streetscene. The replacement was currently taking place in the town of dog bins for general waste bins; this would include a slight change of position of some of the bins. Bins on Biddulph Moor were also under review, the officer was liaising with Councillor Jones. Councillor Sheldon reported that metal tops where cigarette could be stubbed out were missing from town centre bins.

79. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a Day Unit

An email was read out from Councillor Lovatt, who had been unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Lovatt felt that the Health Service was reneging on what had been said at the meeting. Councillor Walley had visited alternative providers and felt that the premises were less suitable than the Day Unit with inadequate facilities.

Councillor Wood thanked Councillors Lovatt and Walley for taking the lead on this item, He felt there was misinformation. He proposed that a letter be sent to Mandy Donald asking for clarification on the points raised, asking her to explain why she felt there was misunderstanding, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson. Councillor Adams noted that he had written to and received a response from Ms Donald, which stated that all the current users of the Day Unit had been allocated a social worker.

Councillor Walley repeated that there would be no shower facilities for the people of Biddulph at all. Councillor Jackson noted that there were facilities, but that they were not suitable for the needs of the people who were currently using the Day Centre, people with more severe needs. He questioned whether all the boxes would be ticked by all the new providers. He was concerned about the strain on carers who may be left high and dry, many of them for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Councillor Walley noted that these points had been made to all those at the meeting, not only to her and Councillor Lovatt.

- b Centenary Fields Programme** – information received from the District Council that a recommendation for the new Bowling Green to be designated as a Centenary Field in honour of those who lost their lives in WW1 is to be put forwards. All were in favour
- c Information received from Councillor Rogers**, following the SPCA AGM. Relevant Papers had been passed to the Chief Officer. Councillor Rogers spoke on the AGM; it was noted that the majority of the money paid to SPCA for our annual subscription was passed to NALC.

80. MEETINGS ATTENDED DURING THE MONTH

- a Councillor Wood reported** that District Councillors had been made aware of a change in the Planning Application process from central government which would mean that agricultural land with a building on would not need to go through the usual planning process for housing development.

- b Councillor Rogers reported on a meeting of the Parish Assembly which had been in a roadshow format and had been very interesting.

81. LENGSTHMAN WORK

Councillor Sheldon passed details to the Chief Officer.

82. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1 Biddulph Moor Post Office

Letter received from Caroline Pritchard, Post Office Area Manager, regarding changes to services provided at Biddulph Moor Post Office. The consultation period ends on 8 January 2015.

2 Biddulph Grange – Premises Licence Application

A copy of the Application has been received today from Licensing. The application covers plays, films, live music, performances of dance and the supply of alcohol. Any representations to be received before 12 January 2015.

3 Girlguiding Staffordshire

A copy of the Annual Report 2013-2014 has been received.

4 Washington Close Residents/the Roaches School

I was invited to attend a Christmas lunch for the residents of Washington Close and pupils of the Roaches School organised by the Community Policing team. This was one of several events that have taken place throughout the year bringing the pupils and residents together and it was heartening to see the relationships that have started to form between the two age groups.

5 St Lawrence's Church Carols by Candlelight Service

The Mayor, Mayoress and all members of the Town Council have received an invitation to attend the Carols by Candlelight service at St Lawrence's Church at 7.30 pm on Sunday 21 December.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

SignedDate.....

The Chair gave good wishes for the festive season and the Mayor invited all those present to join him for light refreshments, to follow the meeting.