

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Chief Officer introduced The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor invited Rev'd Trevor Raaff to lead members in a time of prayer. The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Baddeley
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Salt
Councillor Davies
Councillor Hall
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor McGuinness
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Sheldon MBE
Councillor Swift
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Walley

29.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a Rachel Butcher, Programme Manager of Staffordshire Safety Net CIC, was invited to address the meeting. Funding had been received from the Public Health Commission via the District Council since July and would run until March. The programme was aiming to increase awareness and internet safety among the 13-19 age group. Rachel and a colleague were carrying out detached youth working in the town centre between 7.30 and 9.30 on Friday evenings. They also worked in partnership with Schools and GP surgeries and were encouraging the 'See Something, Say Something' initiative with local takeaways etc.

The aim was to raise awareness with only low level intervention; Rachel encouraged people to phone the police if they felt that a person was in danger. Sometimes concerns were shared with the Local Safeguarding Team.

Councillor Jackson asked if they were working with the taxis. Rachel confirmed that they were keeping an eye on the situation, but also encouraged the young people to be vigilant.

Councillor Redfern welcomed the initiative, noting that he had received training for his work at Stoke on Trent College; he expressed concern about what would happen after March. Rachel wanted to sustain the project and was constantly seeking extra funding. Councillor Redfern asked fellow District Councillors to take note.

Rachel's contact information would be circulated to members.

- b PCSO Steve Sherratt introduced John Walton, Community Safety Fire Officer. John and his team would be holding a Road Safety event in November at Biddulph High School aimed at young drivers between the ages of 17 and 25. A modified Ford

Focus car would be used to simulate a Road Traffic Accident; previous events had proved to be very successful.

FARS were attending more and more road traffic collisions with young drivers and younger passengers. Others attending were the Police and PCSOs and trauma coordinators at RSUH. They were linking with the Princes Trust and Keele National Citizen Scheme and were proactive to reduce the demand on service.

Fire Safety still needed support – champions in the areas to look out for vulnerable residents. Free training was still available, plus free smoke alarm and fire safety checks. Councillor Harper had volunteered for Olive Branch training. Councillor Hall said that other Councillors should be encouraged to attend free training, which could be held here and invite other interested persons.

Councillor Jones said that they needed to connect the Olive Branch between the Fire and Ambulance Services and John Walton said he would he'd look into it.

Councillor Rogers had concerns re un-roadworthy vehicles which he had seen and given details to the PCSOs. Councillor McGuinness had concerns over speeding traffic on Congleton Road and asked where to find data. He was advised to contact Irene Williamson at the Safer Roads Partnership.

PCSO Sherratt had been awarded the Staffordshire Police Equal and Diversity Award for 2015, to be presented on 9 October, for working with vulnerable adults and young people at Washington Close and The Roaches School. Members congratulated PCSO Sherratt.

- c Councillor Sheldon announced that Biddulph in Bloom had been awarded Gold and overall winner of the Large Town category in the Heart of England region and had also been awarded the past Chairman's trophy for best floral display. (There had been two new judges this year to allay fears of favouritism!) The judges had said that Biddulph's were the best floral display in the competition and had scored 187 out of 200 on marking sheet. She wanted to thank the whole community of Biddulph and anyone who helped in any way at all.

Members applauded Biddulph in Bloom's success. Councillor Rogers commented that when strangers come to town the impact was amazing, and that us 'locals' took the flowers for granted.

Councillor Hall said that it didn't seem enough just to offer congratulations year after year. We had come to depend on Councillor Sheldon a great deal and now expected success.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: Councillor Hart: in any business to do with the LDF site specific allocations. Councillor Sheldon: in anything to do with Biddulph in Bloom especially in Minute 35, the second grant payment.
- b To discuss and vote on the issue of whether all members should be granted a Dispensation for the term of this Council in relation to the setting of the Precept, as all members who pay Council Tax would have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Hall proposed that the whole Council be granted a Dispensation for the four year period and to enquire from the Legal Department at SMDC if individual papers should be filled in, or if this Minute would suffice. This was seconded by Councillor Hart and the resolution was Carried.

- c Other Disclosable Interests:
Councillor Sheldon in any business concerning Biddulph in Bloom.
Minute 32e: Councillor Salt as a member of the Royal British Legion.
Minute 35b: Councillors Redfern and Hart

31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:
Councillor Court
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Wood

32. MINUTES

- a It was **Resolved** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18 August 2015.
- b It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on 18 August 2015. Councillor Hawley had been in attendance. The numbering was adjusted.
- c It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 26 August 2015. Members attention was drawn to Minute 10c. The numbering was adjusted.
- d It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2015.
- e It was **Resolved** to receive the Minutes of the Civic Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2015.

33. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had a quiet month carrying out several engagements.

34. YOUTH ADVISOR REPORT

No meeting due to the school holidays; the Advisors would meet again in October.

35. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a The following accounts were received for payment:

V Brown - Market Day Organiser	50.00
Market float, inc stall construction	157.65
V Brown - Events Director	743.33
Starprint – car boot banner	36.00
Heads (Congleton) Ltd – market/car boot advert	28.08
Biddulph in Bloom – 2 nd grant payment	5,000.00
Viking – stationery/postage	155.24
Grant Thornton – audit fee	960.00
R Mitchell – structural survey, footbridge on FP 87	200.00
B Carter – Woodhouse burial ground gates	40.00
D W Lovatt – 2 nd half of burial grounds maintenance contract	5,821.00
Severn Trent – Town Burial Ground	99.91
AJ Environmental – annual mole control contract, Woodhouse site	280.00
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – subscription	15.00
HM Revenue & Customs (to be paid by direct debit 5/10/15)	1,689.07
Salaries	4,200.83
Staffordshire Pension Fund	1,638.54

Gala Tent – 4 x folding tables for market <i>(paid by credit card)</i>	127.94
D Allcock – Lengthsman work Aug-Sept	400.00
K Thacker – travel expenses	20.80

b Neighbourhood Plan

To discuss the allocation of a budget of up to £500 to cover initial costs in the development of the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan. This was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Salt. All were in favour. Councillors Redfern and Hart abstained from the vote.

c Audit of Accounts for year ended 31 March 2015

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and the External Auditor’s certificate and opinion was received. There were no matters reported.

d Biddulph in Bloom End of Year Accounts

Accounts for year ended 31 January 2015 were received.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm

Signed Date.....