

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2019**

PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor McGuinness
The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Davies
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Court
Councillor Hall
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lawson
Councillor Lovatt
Councillor Nicosia
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Walley
Councillor Whilding
Councillor Wood

Also, in attendance

Councillor Hawley
Councillor Redfern

46.18 APOLOGIES

Councillor Hart
Councillor Harper
Councillor Swift

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom
- ii) Other Interests: none declared

48. MINUTES

- a) It was moved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 20 November 2018.
- b) It was moved to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Burial Grounds Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 7 January 2019. Members were reminded of the site visit to be held from 1.00 pm the following day, meeting at the roundabout in the Town Burial Ground
- c) It was moved to receive the Notes from the meeting of the Bus Working Group held on Tuesday 12 December 2018.

49. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS AT THE BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK

Councillor Jones reported that Staffordshire Wildlife Trust were expecting to take over the Country Park on 1 April 2019. It was still the intention that the Town Council would take over the running of the Visitor Centre, but the Chief Officer was waiting for written confirmation on running costs before seeking Council approval to sign the agreement.

50. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BIDDULPH NETWORK EVENT, HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2018

The Chief Officer reported that the event had been a success. About 12 people had attended a really interesting meeting; members of the voluntary sector and members of churches in the town, it was discovered that there were lots of projects and initiative happening but it was difficult to get the information out to those in need.

The Biddulph website was currently being populated, it was hoped that the information would be located there,

There would be a further meeting in February/March 2019 to explore some of the issues that had been raised in further detail, such as loneliness and the lack of bereavement care.

51. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Arts Forum feedback- In February 2018, B arts were commissioned by Support Staffordshire to undertake a review of arts provision and activity in the Staffordshire Moorlands District. The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1

Create an outward facing, dynamic, and cross cutting Arts and Culture Strategy Recommendations

A useful Arts and Culture Strategy should also provide a vision for the cultural life of the District as well as demonstrating how the arts and culture will contribute to wider Corporate Aims of economic growth, opportunities and wellbeing throughout the District.

Recommendation 2

Create an Arts Development Service that actively delivers across the programme plan against the strategy as outlined above.

Recommendation 3

Conduct an Options Appraisal for Arts Forums and networking activity (including the Annual Celebration).

*In order to move forward from a solid base, we recommend the following actions
1) Decide what is the intended impact of the funding distributed through the Arts Forums- via the writing of the Culture Strategy without this aim in place no other decision can be made.*

2) Undertake an Options Appraisal. A range of future scenarios should be proposed, rated and ranked against the Aim.

Recommendation 4

Invest in evaluation.

Support Staffordshire is currently considering these recommendations and an application for Creative People and Places, Arts Council funding.

2. Next Dementia Cinema event

Around Valentine's Day we will be watching Seven Brides for Seven Brothers!

3. Local Council Award Scheme

We are currently investigating this for Biddulph and would like to present more information at a later meeting.

At the end of 2018, 326 local (parish and town) councils had already achieved a prestigious national award through the Local Council Award Scheme, recognised by the government, Local Government Association, and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), and administered by NALC and county associations, including an impressive 40 councils securing Quality Gold. Another 320 councils have registered to participate in the scheme and we look forward to them securing their award in 2019. You can read more about these councils and how to get involved on the NALC website.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signe

Date