

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Officer introduced the Town Mayor and Chief Officer. The Mayor invited Pastor Mark Holdcroft to lead a time of prayer. The Mayor opened the meeting

PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Davies
Councillor Baddeley
Councillor Barlow
Councillor Brady
Councillor Garvey
Councillor Hall
Councillor Harper
Councillor Hart
Councillor Jackson
Councillor McLoughlin
Councillor Perkin
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Salt
Councillor Sheldon
Councillor Smith
Councillor Swift

Also, in attendance County Councillor Flunder

23.19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting to adjourn for up to 20 minutes (Standing Order 1d-f) to allow for public participation. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Mayor.

Members of the public wishing to raise issues which are not on the Agenda should notify the Chief Officer five working days before the meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.

- a) **Standing item (for discussion as necessary) - Policing in Biddulph.**
- b) **Item requested by resident, Sheila Whitehurst** - Policing in Biddulph and response times. Mrs Whitehurst was unable to attend the meeting.
- c) **Standing item- County Council issues**

County Councillor Flunder reported that the gullies have been cleared. He invited members to let him know of any problems that had not been resolved within 6 weeks of first reporting.

Councillor Jackson asked about progress with the Biddulph Meadows site, the 'rumour-mill' had gone into overdrive, had the land been sold?

Councillor Flunder responded that much information was still confidential and he could not confirm anything yet. He had asked the property team, but had yet not received a positive response. Councillor Flunder would push for the Chief Officer to get the information as soon as possible; it would be around 2-3 weeks.

Councillor Salt asked if the land had been sold for retail? Councillor Flunder could not respond yet.

Councillor Harper talked about a Highways drainage issue adjacent to his property. A County Council vehicle had come in November, workers had put a hosepipe in the drain for 1 minute 4 seconds and the next drain for 30 seconds, then disappeared. Councillor Flunder asked if this had been reported on the system; Councillor Harper responded that it had been reported to a person.

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Jones
Councillor Adams
Councillor Hawley
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Yates

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom. Reference Minute 13b - Councillor Hart site specific residential in Biddulph. Councillor Rogers- travel expenses. Councillor Davies- expenses.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Redfern had met the parents of a planning applicant at a social occasion, he had informed them that he would meet the applicant if invited; they had not met. Councillor Hall is a member of Biddulph Rotary.

26. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 9 July 2010 were **approved and signed** the Minutes of the meeting the Town Council held on 9 July 2019.
- b) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 9 July 2019 were **received**
- c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 July 2019 were **received**.
- d) The Notes of the Planning discussions that took place on 22 August 2019 were **received**. (meeting not quorate)
- e) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 16 July 2019 were **received**.

Councillor Jackson asked about the third paragraph up - Councillor Sheldon suggested meeting twice a year in relation to the Environment and Climate Change Working Group. Councillor Jackson queried if this was sufficient for something so important. He felt it should coordinate with the group at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

Councillor Davies responded that there would be a public meeting on 26 September 2019 to set the agenda for this group.

Councillor Jackson replied that this was the same date as a meeting at SMDC; he felt that one of the Councils should change their date.

Councillor Rogers noted that the electricity box at the Station Road site was adjacent to Brammers shop fence.

Councillor Davies reminded members that this part of the agenda was to verify the correctness of the minutes.

Councillor Sheldon was not aware of the meeting in Leek when Biddulph Town Council's date was chosen.

Councillor Salt noted that Councillor Jones and Yates were on the working group as representative of SMDC; she would prefer SMDC to move their date and proposed that the Chief Officer should start negotiations. This was agreed.

27. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that Biddulph in Bloom had received a Gold award in the Heart of England in Bloom competition and had won the large town category.

Councillor Sheldon – Chair of Biddulph in Bloom - was invited to address the meeting. The sheets had been marked and Biddulph in Bloom had gained 189 points out of 200. Councillor Sheldon presented the award and certificates to the Mayor. Biddulph was also representing the 7 Heart of England counties in the National competition large town category, the results would be announced on 25 October 2019.

Members joined in a round of applause.

Councillor Hall responded that most people in town had a connection with Biddulph in Bloom; he thanked Councillor Sheldon and all the volunteers for the work they did.

Councillor Sheldon responded that we should all share this; we were all a part of what Biddulph in Bloom did.

Councillor Hart said it had been a sterling effort; he thought it was time for a banner outside the Town Hall 'Biddulph in Bloom wins again'.

Councillor Jackson reiterated what Councillor Hall had said. Biddulph in Bloom had set the bar incredibly high and deserved credit. He had never heard anyone complain about money spent on Biddulph in Bloom. People realised what a difference it made; he thanked them again.

Councillor Rogers added that waiting for the results every year put a buzz in the town. There was belief and faith in the community.

The Mayor reported that this weekend there would be Classic Car Festival from 2-5 pm on the High Street which would be followed by the 1st Biddulph Beer and Music Festival inside the Town Hall, with bands playing in the main hall and the Council Chamber. All profits to be given to the Mayor's Charities. He offered members an opportunity to sponsor a beer barrel.

There would be a Mayor's Charity Swimathon on Saturday October 19 from 5.00 pm, members were encouraged to form teams, and a Charity Concert by Biddulph Male Voice Choir on Saturday 26 October 2019.

28. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ORDER

It was moved to approve a quotation to design the Neighbourhood Plan, ensuring the document would be accessible to members of the public.

The Chief Officer had approached three organisations to design the Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation; the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had recommended So Marketing to design the document. The cost would be £1200. So Marketing had previously designed and produced the 2018 Remembrance leaflet and designed the current clematis logo. This recommendation came within the budget. It was proposed to accept this quotation by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Redfern and agreed.

It was moved to approve that Regulation 14 consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) should commence. Paper copied of the Report and Neighbourhood Development Order had been attached to the pack (with a separate link for the Neighbourhood Plan).

The Chief Officer asked for approval to begin the next stage. Consultation would be held between 23 September and 4 November 2019; many public events had been planned.

Councillor Jackson asked why this building was not in the NDO. Councillor Davies replied that it was specific to shop fronts and upper floors of shops. The buildings inside the NDO would not require planning permission to complete certain projects. Larger buildings, e.g. Biddulph Town Hall and Sainsbury's were not in the NDO as we would want them to apply for planning permission.

Councillor Salt thanked members of the Working Group for getting this far. She noted that she had been unable to attend recent meetings due to family commitments but had read all the paperwork. Councillor Salt added that all were responsible for reading the paperwork so that everyone had a clue what was going on.

It was proposed by Councillor Perkin to approve the commencement of the consultation, this was seconded by Councillor Hall and agreed.

29. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SMITH - BIDDULPH REFILL PROJECT

Councillor Smith gave a short presentation and circulated a handout. She spoke about an aim to save plastic pollution nationwide which was very inviting to young people and would like to initiate this in our community as a Council-run project.

Councillor Harper agreed that we had to do something, and this should be started downstairs.

Councillor Jackson asked where we would start. Councillor Smith responded that a small group could knock on doors in the High Street to see if shopkeepers were amenable, it was a wonderful initiative.

Councillor Perkin noted that all the website asked for was a point of contact, it was not for profit; he suggested that Councillor Smith should act as point of contact on behalf of the Town Council

Councillor Redfern concurred; there was nothing to cause offence.

Councillor Sheldon was willing to deliver a pre-letter to shops in the High Street.

Councillor Hall advised making sure the project was suitably advertised and that shops were encouraged to get involved.

Councillor Rogers asked where the bottles would be stored.

Councillor Smith explained that public would go into participating shops with their own empty bottles, which the shop worker would refill with tap water.

Councillor Salt noted that the High Street chemist already refills bottles.

Councillor Smith suggested having Biddulph branded bottles to go along with the scheme.

Councillor Davies suggested having Biddulph t-shirts.

Councillor Smith noted that the website offered advice on cleaning of drinks water fountains, should this be a consideration going forward.

Councillor Smith would like to speak at the public meeting, an opportunity for the general public to be introduced to the scheme. Councillor Smith would lead on the project; proposed by Councillor Perkin, seconded by Councillor Harper and agreed.

30. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVIES - BIDDULPH'S RAPID RESPONSE VEHICLE (RRV)

Councillor Davies reported that he was concerned about the future of the 4-wheeled drive vehicle and the way it was currently used.

Councillor Rogers noted that it was needed more often on a cold wintry night in the rural areas.

The Chief Officer noted that the Town Council had not looked at it for a while, she could make enquiries about current usage.

Councillor Salt felt it was important to balance the risk; no one's life should be put at risk due to austerity.

The Chief Officer would enquire about future plans for the vehicle; this was proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.

31. VERBAL UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT OF BIDDULPH TOWN HALL AND VISITOR CENTRE

The Chief Officer advised that there would be a report to the SMDC Cabinet at the start of October detailing the transfer of this building, the bus hub/toilet block, the closed toilet block on Wharf Road car park and the Visitor Centre and surrounding ground at Biddulph Grange Country Park.

There had been initial discussion to start the project, it was hoped that discussions would be completed before the end of the year; this would enable appropriate budgeting.

Councillor Jones proposed that Councillors get on board to discuss the financial and staffing matters.

Councillor Davies proposed that this is discussed first at the Finance Strategy and Management committee, which would report back to full Council.

Councillor Hall confirmed that the papers would be presented to the SMDC cabinet in the first week of October 2019.

32. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) For information - authorised in July in line with Financial Regulations (previously included on July Town Council agenda)

Business Products	160.80
Shredder and large hole punch	
Ash Waste Services Ltd	291.64
Bins at Town Burial Ground	
Mrs J Webber	45.50
Refreshments at events in July and August	
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	58.50
Springfield Road August	
Business Products	87.22
Monthly Copy charges	

b) Payments made between meeting cycles (not included on previous agenda)

Expenditure above £500

R Standell

Lengthsman work June/July	754.00
Road closure for market	16.00

Expenditure below £500

Mrs J Webber	22.50
Refreshments at Network event	

Good News Publishing	150.00
Distribution of 93 bus leaflet	

Bp Architecture	600.00
Professional architectural services	
Project management	

Npower	32.83
Christmas Lights standing charge	

Heads (Congleton) Ltd	171.36
Advertising Mary Poppins and Greatest Showman	

Filmbank Media	99.60
Permit for Greatest Showman	

c) Accounts received from payment in September

Expenditure above £500

GA Barnacle	1500.00
Stone repairs and fixing Tower Hill trough	

Expenditure below £500

Market imprest	180.00
Stall construction at Artisan market	
B Carter	40.00
Un/lock gates at Woodhouse Burial Ground	
Ash Waste Services	308.14
Waste collection from Biddulph Town Burial Ground	
Tidysite Skip Services Ltd	23.10
Waste collection from Woodhouse Burial Ground	
Waterplus	
Town Burial Ground	47.97
Woodhouse Burial Ground	6.87
N and J Tree Services	240.00
Tree Survey at Butterfly Garden	
R Standell	486.00
Lengthsman work	
W Rogers	32.40
Travel to Leek and Stafford – meetings	
J Davies	69.13
36 cutlery sets, napkins and banqueting roll	
36 sets of cutlery for use at Town Council events	
Geosphere Ltd	336.00
Parish online mapping service annual licence	
Zurich Town and Parish, Insurer Trust Account	56.22
Public artwork insurance	
Credit Card Payments – August	
Facebook	9.00

Boosts	
Artisan Market; social isolation; Tea with Council	
Amazon – reimbursement – delay goodwill gesture	-4.88
Giff gaff – wifi connection	25.00
Amazon - tape	3.65
Cabinet showcase	1353.60
2 x display cabinets for foyer	
Amazon – Brigadoon DVD and wrist pad	17.97
Amazon – numeric keypad	5.43
Amazon – 4 x wired mouse	27.96
Amazon – green banquet roll	15.99
Shutterstock – graphic media	19.00
Amazon – cable ties	7.17
Argos – tower fan	29.99
City Electrical – replacement bulbs in spotlights in main hall	109.76
Land Registry – Smokies Way platform	6.00

Credit Card Payments – September

Facebook	17.23
Boosts	
Artisan Market; Network; Calendar; Festival Film; Dementia Friendly Cinema	
Staffs Moorlands	21.00
Temporary event notice Classic car event	
Temporary event notice	
Giff gaff – wifi connection	25.00
Shutterstock – graphic media	19.00
Amazon – double side carpet tape	14.99

d) Supplementary Accounts for Payment

Expenditure above £500

Salaries	5343.51
HMRC to be paid 30 September 2019	1978.82
Staffs Pension Fund	2207.11
Urban Vision	3346.53
Neighbourhood Plan support	

Biddulph in Bloom	6250.00
Second of four grant payments	
So Marketing	1440.00
Design of Neighbourhood Plan Document	
Broxap	1752.00
2 x cast iron 'Central Station' seats	
Expenditure below £500	
D & G Bus Ltd	81.57
Cross charge for flyers	
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	58.50
Springfield Road maintenance September 2019	
J Gaunt	
Travel – for interments	25.20
Amazon printer ink	16.98
R Standell	
Signs for Artisan Market	160.00
Petty cash	47.39
August 2019	
S Haydon	34.21
Serving platters	
Duck tape	
Dot stickers	
Bright coloured card	
Filmbank Media	99.60
Permit for Mary Poppins Returns	
R Snelson	80.00

Councillor Salt wondered if a shredding company should be contacted if current shredding levels increased.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair to move:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 10 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

33. SAINSBURY’S LAND WITHIN THE STATION ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN

There was a conversation about the potential purchase of a piece of land currently owned by Sainsbury’s. It was agreed that the Town Council would look to do this, dependent on the price that could be negotiated.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed Date