

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 12 JULY 2022, 6PM  
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

**PRESENT:**

- **The Mayor:**
  - Councillor J Garvey
- **Deputy Mayor:**
  - Councillor C R Perkin
- Councillor E E Baddeley
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor J Davies
- Councillor D A Hall
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor A H Hart
- Councillor D J Hawley
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor J P Redfern
- Councillor W Rogers

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance and Governance Officer
- Mrs Susan Booth – Customer Support Assistant
- Work Experience Placement
- Mr John Robinson – Town Crier
- Councillor K Flunder – Staffordshire County Council
- Rev Darren Fraser – St John’s Church, Knypersley and Christ Church Biddulph Moor
- Mr James Connolly - Biddulph Chronicle

Rev. Darren Fraser offered guidance and prayer.

**12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- *Staffordshire Police* – no representative attended.
- *Staffordshire County Council* – Councillor Flunder confirmed:
  - covid vaccination clinics would be set up again locally.

- Information had been sent to the Chief Officer with regard to programmes of support for Ukrainian refugees – the County were keen to work with the Town Council and with the town-based group.
- From the 1 July the six Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent closed down and the functions of the CCGs transferred to a new NHS organisation, known as an integrated care board. The new organisation is responsible for NHS spend and the day to day running of the NHS. It is not clear what this change means across the Moorlands.
- Libraries – a number of holiday initiatives are in place. Staffordshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for the summer holidays. All those eligible will receive a letter via their school and need to apply via [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities).
- Three sites had been visited in relation to Highways in Biddulph. The blocked drain in a gully in Albert Street will be unblocked and 2 stones raised to prevent run off. The prevention of flooding on Mill Hayes Road is a major project – a pipe needs to be installed and the road will need to be closed. The highway has been patched in Park Lane.

Councillor Garvey asked about the loading area on North High Street.

Councillor Flunder said he would request an update.

Councillor Jackson asked about the changes to the day to day running of the NHS; he expressed concern about Biddulph people having to travel to Leek Moorlands Hospital. Councillor Flunder confirmed he would bring more detail back to the Town Council; consultation needs to go ahead.

Councillor Rogers asked about Highways; he was pleased repairs had been made to potholes, although there was still some potholes with white lines around that had not been fixed. Councillor Flunder confirmed category 1 potholes were being filled before surface dressing.

Councillor Flunder provided an update regarding the Knypersley Highways Group, supported by the Town Council. Local schools had agreed to distribute a leaflet cautioning inappropriate parking. There was a plan to look at a one way system and dropping off points.

**The Mayor confirmed attendees will be named in the Minutes, unless otherwise instructed.**

### **13. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded and accepted for:

- Councillor G S Adams (Absent)
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Councillor S Rushton
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C M Smith
- Councillor G Swift (Absent)
- Councillor N R Yates
- Councillor I Lawson – Staffordshire County Council

### **14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations:  
None declared.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillors Hawley and Garvey declared expenses claims in the supplementary accounts.

### **15. MINUTES**

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Town Council held on 14 June 2022

Proposed by Councillor Hall; seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed.

Councillor Garvey requested the 'Mayor's Communications' section be phrased differently.

- b) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022

Proposed by Councillor Hart; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

Minor amendments were requested. Councillors Harper and Jackson wished to be added to the attendees.

- c) To **receive** the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21 June 2022

Proposed by Councillor Rogers; seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.

- d) To **receive** the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 21 June 2022

Proposed by Councillor Perkin; seconded by Councillor Rogers and agreed.  
A minor amendment to an attendee was requested, to correct a typing error.

- e) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting held on 28 June 2022

Proposed by Councillor Hall; seconded by Councillor Rogers and agreed.

## **16.MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor confirmed it had been an eventful month locally and nationally; where SMDC leads, Westminster follows!

It had been a packed month for local and Civic events :

- Biddulph Moor Well Dressing was a highlight. The Mayor thanked the Chronicle for putting the event on their front page.
- Numerous Civic Services, including our own Biddulph event. The Mayor thanked all those who helped to organise and make the event the success it was.
- Support Staffordshire Volunteer Awards – a number of winners were from Biddulph, demonstrating the commitment to volunteering within the town.
- SMDC Fashion Show – this had been a different type of event, but enjoyable.

Highlights of the month had been Biddulph Festival's opening weekend and events:

- leading the procession waving a flag – the best job in town!
- Biddulph by the Sea. The Mayor thanked Jacky Nevill, Councillor Rogers, Chells and Spinks Farm.
- a day celebrating the talent of local people – open art exhibition, Hilltop Flower Festival, BDYCO and Kingsfield Singers concert, together with yarnbombing of the Town Hall. All demonstrating the artistic and creative talent in our town.
- Biddulph in Bloom Open Gardens Day – visited 12/14 gardens.
- Abba Night, REVS Car Show and Italian Day.

Future events:

- Tea with the Town Council tomorrow.
- family friendly film, art and craft workshops, etc.

- Twinning association visit to Fusignano.
- Car Show and Beer & Music Festival – 10<sup>th</sup> September.
- Further rounds of Civic Services across Staffordshire and Cheshire.

## **17. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a) To **receive** an update on the Town Council's covid pandemic response:

The Chief Officer confirmed both Biddulph GP surgeries had scheduled joint flu and covid vaccinations from September in the Town Hall.

- b) To **receive** an update on the management of Biddulph Town Hall  
The Chief Officer confirmed the Town Council had changed energy provider.

- c) To **receive** an update on health and safety.

The Chief Officer confirmed she would be meeting with David Owen (Health & Safety Advisor) at the Visitor Centre in the next couple of weeks to ensure all documentation was in place and compliant.

## **18. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

*To **approve** that the Town Council works with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and other partners to develop a bid for the Shared Prosperity Fund. Capital projects to include public realm enhancements in town centre and improvements to shops. Revenue projects to consider feasibility studies and infrastructure enhancements.*

Proposed by Councillor Hall; seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed.

A handout was distributed that the Chief Officer had collated suggesting possible initiatives the Town Council could submit. The Chief Officer did not know how the District would choose and allocate funding, however the deadline for submission is the 1st August and therefore the Town Council need to identify some projects and priorities for Biddulph quickly. The Chief Officer confirmed she was attending an online session on Friday, where she would find out more detail.

Councillor Jackson conveyed his annoyance – the Shared Prosperity Fund replaces EU funding – it's billions of money, and the Town Council has been given a deadline of weeks. He was unhappy that Biddulph didn't get a share of

the Levelling Up funding. He would be interested to see how this will work and was worried that Biddulph won't get anything.

Councillor Redfern was also concerned how this will work at the District. 10% of allocation was for capital projects – 90% revenue projects – most of projects in the past have been capital; he couldn't understand why the change.

The Chief Officer advised we can do work to prepare for capital projects, such as planning fees, searches, etc. enhancing community capacity. The Town Council could extend the role of the Biddulph Community Support Officer.

Councillor Jones stated all the ideas listed were good – he suggested we vote for the ones we want to take forward as there wasn't a lot of time. The Chief Officer said she hoped to know more following the online session on Friday. Councillor Jones agreed; Councillors should support the Chief Officer and trust her judgement to progress the initiatives further. Councillor Hart confirmed had spoken to Andrew Stokes who had confirmed the Chief Officer would receive appropriate support.

Councillor Hawley asked how the Council would approve what is taken forward, as there is no Town Council meeting between now and the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> August. The Chief Officer stated, dependent on timescales, she'd hope to bring back a summary to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting at the end of the month. Alternatively, she could communicate with Councillors by email. Councillor Garvey suggested we include an update as an item on the next Town and Community agenda. All voted in favour.

Councillor Flunder was permitted to speak and added that a meeting scheduled for the next evening at the District Council would help everyone to understand the process; he would make sure Biddulph gets input into the process. Councillor Hart confirmed he would be attending the Committee and would attend the next Town and Community Committee meeting to provide feedback. Councillor Jackson also confirmed he would attend the meeting the following night.

**19.TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE THAT A NEW STAFF STRUCTURE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH RECRUITMENT TAKING PLACE OVER THE SUMMER (STRUCTURE SENT SEPARATELY)**

Proposed by Councillor Perkin; seconded by Councillor Rogers and agreed.

**20.TO NOTE THAT A SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MAY BE NECESSARY DURING AUGUST TO APPROVE A NEW CONTRACTOR FOR THE BURIAL GROUND AND SPRINGFIELD ROAD MAINTENANCE**

This was noted.

**21.ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE**

a) To approve accounts for July 2022

<b>Expenditure between £500 and £5000</b>		
Glendale	Burial Ground grass cutting	987.28
D&G Bus	93 Bus Service- June 2022	3,076.00
Moorland Contract Cleaning	Wharf Road toilets	1,395.54
Moorland Contract Cleaning	Visitor Centre toilets	1,251.44
Total Energies	Visitor Centre Electricity	2,345.42
Total Energies	Town Hall Electricity	7,026.33
Total Energies	Bus Hub Electricity	890.37
Prism	Direct Debit- IT provision	764.50
GGs Kitchen	Buffet for Civic Sunday	516.75
<b>Expenditure less than £500</b>		
Moorland Contract Janitorial	Toilet roll- Town Hall	62.82
Moorland Contract Janitorial	Toilet roll- Bus Hub/ Visitor Centre	48.38
Moorland Contract Janitorial	Graffiti remover	9.54
Foxtail Florist	Flowers for Civic Sunday	305.00
Ash Waste	Final bill- April 2022	472.30
Octopus Energy	Direct Debit- Bus Hub Electricity	193.83

Opus Energy	Direct Debit- Town Hall Gas	147.71
Reliance High Tech	Lone worker devices	73.14
Heads (Congleton) Limited	Twilight Market advert	178.08
Myers and Co Solicitors	Employer Assist June- July	150.00
Heads (Congleton) Limited	Dementia Cinema advert	343.44
Councillor Jim Garvey	Mayoral expenses for Civic Sunday	80.88
Waterlogic	Cooler provision	16.84
B Webster Plumbing and Heating	Plumbing repairs in Town Hall	130.00
Grenke	Quarterly photocopier lease	439.67
Rebecca Dobson	Cake for Civic Sunday	30.00
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Annual Premises Fee- High Street and frontage	70.00
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Lease of land at Congleton Road	90.00
Prism	Direct Debit- Telephone charges	189.77
Tidysite	Town Hall/ Burial Grounds/ Visitor Centre bins (w/ 20 and w/c 27 June)	389.88
Amazon	Mamma Mia	3.15
	Chicago	5.87
	Tape dispenser	18.61
	Key fobs	5.59
	Label maker	47.34
	Milk frother	9.97
	Lever arch files	6.90
	Disposable cups	14.55
	Ring binder	9.98
	Tape	2.40
	Data cable	33.65

**b) To confirm** that accounts payable in August 2022 will be sent to Councillors for information and approved at Town Council in September 2022



c) To **approve** grant allocations for 2022-23

Group	Allocation
1 <sup>st</sup> Biddulph Moor Rainbows and Brownies	£350.00
Biddulph Churches Together Foodbank	£930.00
Biddulph Festival	£5,000.00
Biddulph in Bloom	£28,672
Biddulph Library	£248.00
Biddulph Lifeline	£2,000
Biddulph Moor Evergreen Club	£500.00
Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & SOT	£25,000
Churnet Sound Community Radio CIC	£1,500
Douglas Macmillan Hospice	£2,000
First Biddulph Moor 'Saracens' Scout Group	£1,500
G.E.M's – Crafty Coffee Morning (Life Stream Church)	£2,000
Knypersley Cricket Club	£2,000,
Life Stream Church – 'Children's Work'	Considered above.
Moorlands Voluntary and Community Transport	£1,800
Staged CIO	£500

d) To **approve** the supplementary Accounts (to be tabled).

The accounts were moved on-block by Councillor Hall; seconded by Councillor Hart and agreed.

The meeting ended at 7.02pm.

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT