

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2023, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **The Mayor:**
Councillor J Garvey
- **Deputy Mayor:**
Councillor C Perkin
- Councillor J Davies
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Councillor W Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor Harper

83. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for:

- Councillor E E Baddeley (Absent)
- Councillor J P Redfern (Absent)
- Councillor S Rushton (Absent)
- Councillor N R Yates
- Councillor C M Smith
- Councillor G Swift (Absent)

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None
- b) Other Interests: None

85. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 21 March 2023 were **approved**. Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Perkin.

- b)** The Notes of the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 15 March 2023 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Davies; seconded by Councillor Garvey.
- c)** The Notes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 28 March 2023 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Harper.
- d)** The Notes of the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on Thursday 30 March 2023 were **received**. Proposed by Councillor Davies; seconded by Councillor Rogers

86. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON EMERGING CORONATION ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer noted that funding had been received from the District Council to support the community providing coronation activities, and reminded Councillors that it was previously agreed to purchase the pin badges for young people from the reserves.

Ms Hancock noted the events taking place over the coronation weekend:
Thursday – The Community Zone will host a family party during the day and youth activities during the week.

Friday – Family disco at the Town Hall; there is an evening event at the Biddulph Moor Village Hall.

Saturday – The Gardeners Arms are having an event; the Rose and Crown are hosting a barbecue

Sunday – In the evening, there is a Civic service at St. Lawrences, preceded by the Mayor’s event at Biddulph Old Hall.

Monday – Volunteer Litter Pickers.

The Chief Officer noted that the publicity deadline is the end of this week.

Ms Hancock explained that all regular groups will be theming sessions around the coronation during their weekly activities at the Town Hall.

Councillor Rogers questioned where the litter pick will take place. Councillor Salt explained it was decided to focus on the Church Road area. It was noted that the Friends of Biddulph Valley Way will be covering Route 55.

87. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BUSINESS EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE ON 31 MARCH 2023, 8.30AM

The Chief Officer reported that over 20 people attended the business event, they completed a short questionnaire and the responses showed concerns around the difficulty in marketing, regarding security and wanting grants to improve premises.

The Chief Officer reported that there were very positive conversations; this was a successful event, and she would like to repeat it again. Councillor Jones agreed, and reported that it was a positive event.

Councillor Rogers questioned what the details were around the security concerns; Ms Hancock explained that the concerns were around cyber security, customers with challenging behaviour and lone working.

It was discussed to repeat the event at varying times to try and engage more High Street businesses.

88. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A PROPOSED 'MEN SHEDS' SCHEME

The Chief Officer reported that she and Councillor Smith had met with a gentleman who is looking to start a 'Men Sheds' project and is interested in the back of the Visitor Centre.

Councillor Salt (speaking on behalf of Councillor Smith) noted the positives of the scheme including that the scheme would meet the aims and goals for social isolation, older men's involvement in groups and project work.

Councillor Lawton questioned whether 'Men Sheds' should be open to other genders. It was discussed that the Town Council supports all genders, not just men therefore there is no issue.

Councillor Rogers questioned whether the Repair Café could team up with this project. The Chief Officer reported that they are already in discussions.

Councillor Davies questioned how it is financed. The Chief Officer reported that initially it would require the support of the Town Council, however once they are an established group they can apply for funding.

Councillor Perkin reported that Congleton run a similar successful scheme.

Councillor Jones expressed his concern over the venue being the Visitor Centre.

89. TO AGREE A POSITION ON ARTISAN AND TWILIGHT MARKETS FOR THE 2023-24 PERIOD

The Chief Officer explained that the Twilight Market started 12 months ago and due to the cost-of-living crisis it has become increasingly challenging for traders to make an income. It is suggested that a market could form part of other events that take place throughout the year. Regular Friday stalls on the frontage of the Town Hall will be encouraged and promoted.

It was discussed that the events such as; Garden Week, Launch day for festival, wedding and party fayre, Christmas lights switch-on, car show etc. could accommodate a market element and that this would be reviewed again in Autumn. Proposed by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Garvey.

The meeting closed at 7.14pm.

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