

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING,  
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023, 6.30PM  
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

**PRESENT:**

- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor S Fletcher
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor C Smith (Chair)
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor N Yates

*Councillors Salt and Garvey were in attendance but did not sign the attendance sheet.*

**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 Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor K Jackson

Councillor Smith recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

**28. APOLOGIES**

- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Hopkins
- Councillor Kisicki
- Councillor Proudlove
- Councillor Wood (Absent)

Councillor Smith queried whether Councillors were happy to consider an emergency confidential item in relation to use of the Town Hall by Citizens Advice. Councillor Salt seconded the proposal. All agreed.

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 30. MINUTES

- a) To **sign** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on 19 September 2023.

All **agreed** and **signed**.

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Environment and Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 14 September 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Yates; seconded by Councillor Garvey. **Received**.

- c) To **receive** the Notes from the Young People's Working Group meeting held on 18 September 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Smith; seconded by Councillor Salt. **Received**.

- d) To **receive** the Notes from the Biddulph Works Together meeting held on 27 September 2023

Proposed by Councillor Smith; seconded by Councillor Salt. **Received**.

- e) Please note the Health and Wellbeing Working Group planned for 28 September 2023 was not quorate.

- f) To **receive** the Notes from the Christmas Events Working Group meeting held on 2 October 2023

Proposed by Councillor Garvey ;seconded by Councillor Rogers. **Received**.

### 31. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Chief Officer reported that Santa has been confirmed and Churnet Sound Radio will be providing entertainment at the event.

The Stalls are booked at full capacity and there is a waiting list for stall holders. The Chief Officer reported that there will be dance and drama groups performing on the steps.

The Chief Officer stated that Warwick Funfairs have confirmed the prices of the rides.

Free Activities will be provided, which will fill the gap in between the rides and stalls on the High Street. Councillors were asked to consider whether table-top

football which is priced at £800 could be booked. This would provide a further activity for older young people. It was agreed that this was appropriate.

The Chief Officer stated that a £200 allocation is made to cover each of the free activities.

Councillor Garvey questioned whether the stalls could be increased. The Chief Officer stated that it is dependent on whether funding is given from the District Council towards purchasing more gazebos and tables. The District Council usually allocated £2000 for market development. The Chief Officer wondered whether Councillors would like her to make this approach. Councillor Garvey felt it was appropriate to ask for an increased allocation; all agreed.

Councillor Salt questioned whether the glitter tattoos provided as part of the free activities could be environmentally friendly, and whether the cost of the fairground rides could be provided through the groups at Biddulph Works Together.

Councillor Smith questioned whether to approach Councillor Swindlehurst regarding the extra funding to support the markets.

Councillor Yates suggested a shared prosperity fund application towards an investment in kit.

The Chief Officer would make investigations and report back to the Committee.

## **32. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HERITAGE/ RESTORATION PROJECTS**

The Chief Officer reported that there are two ongoing projects; Overton Road and Gillow Heath platform. She stated that confirmation is required from the District Council regarding the benches and the interpretation board installation at the station platform. The Chief Officer stated that it has been included on the list of outstanding issues with the Assets Team.

The Chief Officer hoped that the troughs would be completed before the end of the year.

Councillor Jackson requested an update with the Miners lamps. The Chief Officer explained that a site visit is imminent.

### **33. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE STATION ROAD ART PROJECT**

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors about previous discussions regarding artwork at Station Road. There have been discussions with Philip Hardaker and enquiries are ongoing regarding additional sources of funding. She requested that the Council confirm whether to go ahead with the project; this had been considered in depth and needed to be progressed or parked. The Chief Officer could then advise the artist.

The Chief Officer explained that the first part of the project incorporates community participation and creating the tiles.

The project was discussed, and it was requested that the Chief Officer provide a presentation in relation to the whole Station Road area for the benefit of new Councillors.

Councillor Lawton requested a timeline of the process, the Chief Officer will email Phillip Hardaker for his views.

Councillor Jackson stated that there had been some concern about the need for CCTV in this area. The Chief Officer stated that the Town Council have received a report from the crime prevention team in relation to anti-social behaviour and reported that she will be meeting with the police shortly to discuss mobile CCTV.

Councillor Salt proposed to move forward with the art project, but continue with additional funding avenues; seconded by Councillor Garvey. All **agreed**.

It was agreed that tiles would be created over the winter period and installed in the spring. Councillor Jackson suggested adding this item to the Young Peoples Working Group agenda.

### **34. TO CONSIDER WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE DATA**

The Chief Officer had circulated the data relating to the month of the September which detailed the social media usage. This was the first time this had been presented, and the report could be amended- as necessary.

Councillor Garvey requested that this data be presented regularly.

Councillor Smith questioned whether there was a social media budget. The Chief Officer explained that it is covered within individual events.

### **35. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SHARED PROSPERITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

The Chief Officer reported that there is a new regeneration officer at the District Council. She has been in contact with this person and has explained that there are a significant number of projects in Biddulph that are currently ready to go:

- Pedestrianisation
- Town Hall frontage
- Station Road sculpture
- Visitors centre – increase footfall, renewal energy hub
- Trent Valley Way footpaths.

The Chief Officer had submitted invoices for the Town Hall frontage as part of the feasibility study work.

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors that two allocations have been granted: older people's feasibility study and event enhancement.

Councillor Yates agreed with the projects that have been put forward particularly the visitor centre development. Councillor Yates also agreed that Biddulph should be involved with the Trent Valley Way project.

The Chief Officer stated that a potential 'Trent Valley Way' route has been planned from the 'Trent Head Well' to 'Knypersley Pool' using existing footpaths. The route would go along Lodge Barn Road, the Chief Officer explained that the majority of the work would be around the 'Trent Head Well'. The project would include management of styles and tidying up of footpaths as well as installing signs. The Chief Officer reported that timescales for the funding are unknown and therefore awaits further information.

Councillor Jackson requested clarification on role of the new Regeneration Officer. Councillor Garvey stated that the purpose of the role is to support the allocation of funding.

The Chief Officer added that up until this point it had been unclear what the process was, and she felt more positive that there is a new officer supporting applicants.

Councillor Rogers expressed his concern regarding the Trent Head Well.

### **36. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE OLDER PEOPLE'S FEASIBILITY STUDY WORK**

The Chief Officer gave an update about the successful application to the Shared Prosperity Fund which funds an older people's feasibility study. Support has been provided by the public health team at the County Council as they have been working on 'living and ageing well'.

The Chief Officer proposed to use the funding at the start of December, to host events in several pubs around the community with a formal questionnaire and an opportunity for people to tell their story. This will provide data on the positives and negatives in terms of what support is available within the town.

Councillor Parkes suggested to use venues alternative to the pub. Councillor Lawton agreed with this. The Chief Officer confirmed that Officers would attend a wide range of groups.

Councillor Yates agreed that this is a positive mechanism to promote other council facilities.

Councillor Salt questioned how to approach those who are not leaving the home and suggested the doctors as a venue.

### **37. TO AGREE A DATE FOR THE NEXT BUSINESS NETWORK BREAKFAST**

It was agreed to look at a date in January/ February 2024.

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

*In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded.*

### **38. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE STORAGE OPTIONS**

The Chief Officer gave an update regarding the storage options for market equipment. Further investigations would take place.

### **39. EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEM**

It was proposed to progress with negotiations with Citizens Advice, based on a new room rate, by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Salt. All agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.

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