

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024, 6PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **Mayor**
Councillor K Harper (Chair)
- **Deputy Mayor**
Councillor N R Yates
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor N Eardley
- Councillor S Fletcher
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor A H Hart
- Councillor F A Holdsworth
- Councillor M A Hopkins
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor D Proudlove
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C Smith
- Councillor Wood
- Councillor S Rushton

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnership Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor Keith Flunder – Staffordshire Moorlands County Councillor
- Reverend Will Drain – St. Lawrence Church
- John Robinson - Biddulph Town Crier
- Louise Middling – Resident of Halls Road
- PC French – Staffordshire Police
- PC Podmore – Staffordshire Police
- 14 members of public were in attendance

The Town Crier introduced the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chief Officer.

Reverend Will Drain led the Town Council in Prayer.

Councillor Rogers gave his congratulations to the Mayor on his recent marriage.

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

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

109. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Louise Middling speed calming on Halls Road (five minutes)

Mrs Middling gave a presentation in relation to accidents that have occurred on Halls Road, to bring to the issues to the attention of the Councillors. Mrs Middling requested that traffic calming measures be implemented on this section of road.

Councillor Hart declared a conflict of interest as his partner lives at one of the addresses mentioned in the presentation.

Councillor Rogers gave his thanks for the presentation and agreed that some traffic calming action is required.

Councillor Yates reported that he had requested that speed data should be collected, to monitor the traffic and speed increase; he stated that with the data it creates more options for traffic calming.

Councillor Yates explained that he is currently working on areas within Gillow Heath such as the footpath missing from Gillow Shaw Bridge; if that is introduced that should force cars to reduce their speed. Another action is improvements to the Halls Road and Station Road junction; white lines have been improved.

It was proposed by Councillor Garvey to consider this issue on the agenda for Recreation and Amenities Committee to enable this matter to be discussed; seconded by Councillor Smith; approved with four abstentions.

Staffordshire Police representatives

It was proposed by Councillor Salt to suspend Standing Orders for this agenda item to enable a longer discussion about recent issues; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All agreed.

PC French introduced herself as part of the Biddulph neighbourhood policing team, she stated that the recent statistics shows that within the last 3 months there have been 9 incidents of burglary which includes residential and commercial properties, this has resulted in a 31% increase from previous months.

Councillor Harper questioned what the detection rate was; PC French did not have this data.

Councillor Rogers stated that regarding the three incidents this week, system did not work. He reported that two of those businesses were on the phone trying to report the incident for over three hours. Councillor Rogers questioned whether the incidences have been caught on the CCTV. PC French confirmed that at least once had been caught, that she knew of.

Councillor Smith questioned on behalf of businesses, what is being done to prevent further incidences. Councillor Smith requested whether it is possible for Police Officers to visit the local businesses.

PC French responded that PCSOs will be attending businesses over the next few days to reassure them. Policing and Response teams are working during the early hours in the morning to try and prevent these crimes from happening again.

Councillor Salt requested an update on the incident that happened on Woodland street. PC French stated that currently there is no identification.

Councillor Salt questioned what advice can they offer to residents for incidences instead of dialling 101, as the reporting line takes too long: what justifies a 999 call? PC French explained that if there is no imminent danger then 999 is not the best number to call, however, if the incidents are happening in the moment, then call 999.

Councillor Jackson agreed that the system has broken. He expressed that it is worrying that the community has lost faith in the policing force.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

Staffordshire County Council representative(s): (five minutes total)

Councillor Yates

Councillor Yates provided updates in relation to highways issues.

Councillor Yates reported that the County Council's last budget had set aside monies for a forest. He stated that there would be opportunities for collaboration for the Town Council to do some tree planting.

Councillor Flunder

Councillor Flunder stated that in relation to the car park at the Fishing Club, the data has been passed on and he is now waiting the consultation during the Summer months.

Councillor Flunder stated that in relation to the DHP, he is trying to rearrange the meeting. Councillor Flunder reported that he is hopeful that temporary fillings for potholes should become more permanent, particularly around junctions.

Councillor Flunder reported that he had received a report in relation to the SEND provision.

Councillor Jones reported that all the repairs that were completed on Chapel Lane, have failed. It was discussed that Councillor Yates had been allocated funding for Category 3 repairs.

Councillor Smith requested that the SEND audit be circulated to Councillors. This was agreed. Councillor Flunder confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Biddulph High School regarding SEND during the end of April.

110. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

- Councillor A Parkes
- Councillor D Hawley

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests; Councillors Salt and Brady declared an interest in Biddulph Youth and Community Zone.

112. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024
Proposed by Councillor Proudlove; Seconded by Councillor Redfern. All **agreed**.
- b) To **receive** the Minutes from the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024
Proposed by Councillor Jones; Seconded by Councillor Brady. All **agreed**.
- c) To **receive** the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024
Councillor Garvey gave apologies, was not in attendance.
Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All **agreed**.
- d) To **receive** the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024

Proposed by Councillor Rogers; seconded by Councillor Lawton. All **agreed**.
- e) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Finance meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2024

Proposed by Councillor Rogers; seconded by Councillor Smith. All **agreed**.

113. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he attended an event in Biddulph Moor First School; the long-standing Head had retired.

The Mayor reported that he attended an event at Leek Cricket Club and the Biddulph Male Choir concert in memory of Dave Walley.

114. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Councillors to note that these are existing standing agenda items and can be amended by resolution, if required.

a) To receive an update on the management of Town Council Assets
Councillor Flunder left the meeting at 19.16.

The Chief Officer reported that a survey in relation to RAAC will be conducted on Thursday this week.

The Chief Officer reported that there had been another incident at the Wharf Road toilet block, the hand dryer had been kicked off the wall. The electrician had been called out. The Chief Officer reported it to the Police. The Town Council's CCTV has very clear images, which have been passed to the Police.

The Chief Officer stated that the Bus Hub roof is still leaking and will report back any progress.

Councillor Smith questioned whether in the Visitor Centre is ready to take tenants. The Chief Officer reported that the Heads of Terms have been agreed, but no license has been received.

Councillor Jones requested whether the gutter at the Visitors Centre could be repaired; the Chief Officer would chase this.

b) To receive an update on health and safety activities (inc. risk management)

The Chief Officer reported that there are some snagging issues with the fire doors.

The Chief Officer reported that the stage lighting will be serviced shortly; it was previously agreed that this should take place annually.

The Chief Officer reported that the asbestos survey is also booked in.

c) To receive an update on 'Biddulph Works Together' project.

The Chief Officer reported that she had had a conversation with Glasgow Caledonian University who are part of the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit, and their aim is

to eradicate poverty. They are interested in the work that the Town Council has completed with the Biddulph Works Together project and the research Councillor Salt had conducted. The Chief Officer stated that the university will be pulling together a report and she will circulate this to Councillors before publication.

The Chief Officer explained that Compassionate Communities organisation had requested to pilot their training at the Town Council as it is aimed at the staff who work with a range of community members, particularly around grief.

115. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSIDE BODY MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE THE MARCH 2024 MEETING (Updates only from the following meetings: Biddulph in Bloom, Moorlands Assembly, Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, Moorlands Partnership Board, Twinning Association and Fairtrade)

No meetings had been attended.

116. ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

a) To **approve** accounts to be paid in April 2024:

Expenditure over £500			
Prism	Software support	March INV 193176	958.22
SMDC	TH Business Rates DD	April	2386.00
Octopus Energy	Visitor Centre - Electricity	March	676.56
Prism	Software support	April INV 194771	958.22
Sandyford Properties Investments Ltd	Storage Unit – rent	April INV 10761	624.00

Expenditure less than £500			
Rode Hall Silver Band	D-Day Event - Deposit	INV SI-124	50.00
Biddulph Local Peoples Group	BWT - Refreshments	30 Jan – 19 March	72.11
Toni's Treats	BWT Refreshments	INV 46	40.00
Toni's Treats	BWT – w/c 11/3/24 BPLG, Community Cinema, Dementia Approach – Refreshments	INV 45	100.00
SMDC	Storage Unit- Business Rates DD	April	177.48
SMDC	Cemetery – Property Rates	Apr 2024 – March 2025	369.26

SCC – Biddulph Library	BWT – Calligraphy Group		100.00
Rolux UK Ltd	Roller Shutter Service		96.00
Sandyford Properties Investments Ltd	Storage Unit – Service Charge	April INV 10769	24.00
Waterplus	Water Supply – Visitor Centre		33.20
Prism	Phone Charges	INV 195369	265.01
Myers & Co Solicitors	Employer Assist Membership	INV 67429	150.00
Reliance High Tech	Lone working devices	INV 24120621	73.14
Octopus Energy	Wharf Road – Electricity	March	166.48
Tidysite Skip Services	Bin Emptying wc 25/3/24	INV 138141	144.54
Moorland Contract Janitorial Ltd	Cleaning Supplies	INV 3163	88.56
Moorland Contract Janitorial Ltd	Cleaning Supplies	INV 2522	226.69
Unity Bank	Bank Charges		0.60
SMDC	Lease of Land – Congleton Rd	Apr	90.00
Nigel Yates	Deputy Mayor Expenses	Feb & March 2024	160.00
Triad Trade Textiles	BTC Notepads	INV 53948	239.94
Tidysite Skip Services	Bin Emptying – wc 11/03/24	Inv 137541	226.51
Waterplus	Water Supply – Burial Ground	Feb - March	60.89
R.E. Stevenson	Signwriting	Chamber Board	200.00
TEAM (Energy Auditing Agency Ltd.)	Town Hall	Display Energy Certificate	228.90
Congleton Town Council	Congleton Town Mayor Charity Ball	Tickets x2	80.00
Euro Digital Services	Printing – 28Feb – 27Mar		129.27
Hanley Print Services	4x Foamex Board		72.00
<i>Waterplus</i>	<i>Water Supply – Burial ground (to note 31.09 invoice amount)</i>	<i>Credit on account after actual reading, no payment due</i>	<i>0.00</i>

Credit Card			
GiffGaff	Mobile Phones	April	8.00
GiffGaff	Mobile Phones	April	8.00
GiffGaff	Mobile Phones	April	8.00
Made By Cooper	Enamel Pin Badges		193.80
Made By Cooper	Enamel Pin Badges		7.80
Printerland.co.uk	Desktop Scanner		72.78
Eventbrite	Garden Festival	Tickets and Marketing	7.99
Vital Skills by HSQE	Training Staff	INV 433377	144.00
Facebook	Social Media Advertising		36.43

Amazon	Computer Mouse x2		15.98
Amazon	Toilet Seat		32.99
Amazon	Wireless Computer Mouse		11.99
Royal Mail Online	Postage Stamps		87.40
Amazon	DVD		6.40
Amazon	Doorbell- Caretakers Office		12.00
SMDC	Road Closure		65.00
Vital Skills by HSQE	Training Staff	INV 432362	96.00
Argos	Printer Ink		13.59
Eventbrite	Staff Training		39.22
Sainsburys	Meeting refreshments		32.35
Sainsburys	Meeting refreshments and cleaning supplies		12.60
Family Pizza	Meeting Refreshments		41.10

b) To approve supplementary accounts (to be tabled)

Expenditure over £500			
Salaries	April		16719.16
HMRC	PAYE		4457.66
Staff Pensions	Pensions	April	6284.49
Opus Energy	Town Hall – GAS	(DD) 04 March – 02 April 24	3028.64
Octopus Energy	Town Hall – Electricity	(DD) 1 March – 31 March 24	2051.11
Moorland Contract Cleaning Ltd	Visitor Centre Cleaning	INV – 10519	981.13
Moorland Contract Cleaning Ltd	Wharf Road Cleaning	INV - 10518	1524.85
R.G.S Lengthsman	Hedge cutting various areas, and relocation of market items inc skip hire and clearing	08/03/24 – 03/04/24	2675.00
Npower	Christmas Illuminations unmetered supply	Apr 2023 – March 2024	761.49
Unity Trust Account	BTC Transfer from NatWest		50,000.00

Npower	Electricity BT Kiosk - TH	Apr 2023 – March 2024	750.71
D&G Buses Ltd	Biddulph Bus Service	March	3340.00
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Fishing Tickets Sales	2023-2024	909.00
Hanley Print Services	BTC NP Notebooks x50	INV 14332	580.00
Expenditure less than £500			
CASH	Volunteer Expenses April (£160.00), Petty Cash (£45.20)		205.20
Gary Smith's Electrical Limited	Visitor Centre	Light fault repair	312.40
Standard Life	Voluntary Pension Payment	April	200.00
Tidysite Skip Services	Bin Emptying w/c 18/3	INV 137879	62.57
Tidysite Skip Services	Bin Emptying w/c 25/3	INV 138141	144.54
Concept Elevators (UK) Limited	Lift Service Annual x2 units	1/2/24 – 30/1/25	203.52
Toni's Treats	BWT – Community Cinema 10/4, Bereavement Group, Dementia Cafe	Refreshments	110.00
Mark Edwards	Staff Travel Expenses	Dec 2023, Jan, Feb, March 2024	8.73
Hanley Print Services	Garden Festival	Banners	204.00
Sarah Haydon	Travel Expenses	March	181.05
Natwest	Bank Charges	March	33.94

Credit Card			
Sainsburys	BWT – Community Cinema / Milk for meetings	Refreshments	15.90

To be moved on block; proposed by Councillor Hart; seconded by Councillor Jones. All **agreed**.
The meeting ended at 7.35pm

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