

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022, 7PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • The Mayor: | • Councillor A H Hart (Chair) |
| Councillor J Garvey | • Councillor A Lawton |
| • Deputy Mayor: | • Councillor W Rogers |
| Councillor C R Perkin | • Councillor J Salt |
| • Councillor C Brady | • Councillor C M Smith |
| • Councillor D A Hall | • Councillor N R Yates |
| • Councillor K Harper | |

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance & Governance Officer
- Mrs Susan Booth – Customer Support Assistant
- Councillor G S Adams
- Councillor J Davies
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Mr James Connolly – Biddulph Chronicle
- Mr Joe Yates – Biddulph Chronicle

23. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded and accepted for:

- Councillor E E Baddeley (Absent)
- Councillor J T Jones

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations:
 Councillor Jackson declared a pecuniary interest in item 31
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: None

25. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 12 July were **approved and signed**.

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

26. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE KNYPERSLEY HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The Chief Officer confirmed a leaflet had been designed, which would be distributed to all Biddulph schools to raise awareness about appropriate parking; Councillor Flunder is to cover the cost of the printing. As a Town Council, the Chief Officer felt the project was nearly at an end, unless Councillors feel there were other activities to consider. It was duly noted.

27. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PARK LANE ALLOTMENT SITE

a) *Councillors to **consider** the development of an accessible allotment plot*

The Chief Officer advised a plot was now vacant and asked Councillors to consider making it an accessible plot. There may need to be a separate waiting list. Councillor Salt said this was an excellent idea and also suggested there may be funding via the disabled facilities grant at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Councillor Harper agreed with Councillor Salt. Proposed by Councillor Perkin; seconded by Councillor Salt and agreed. The Chief Officer would work up further proposals and bring this back to the Committee for consideration.

b) *Councillors to **consider** the implementation of a deposit scheme*

The Chief Officer asked whether Councillors wanted to introduce a deposit scheme – to be held and given back if an allotment plot is left in a tidy condition when vacated. Councillor Harper initially thought no changes should be made. Councillor Davies thought a deposit scheme should be introduced. Councillor Salt said we should leave any decision to next year; it didn't need looking at urgently. Councillor Garvey agreed with Councillor Davies and was surprised the Council didn't have a deposit scheme in place already. Councillor Yates agreed in some respects, but didn't think it was the right time to introduce a scheme – he wondered what other Council's do. Councillor Smith thought a scheme should be investigated further. Councillor Harper agreed with Councillor Smith. Proposed by Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed.

- c) *To **note** that the Park Lane allotment plots will be measured in the Autumn to ensure consistency of charging.* It was duly noted.

28. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT BUS ROUTES IN RELATION TO POSSIBLE TOWN CENTRE PEDESTRIANISATION

The Chief Officer advised that she had been on 'road trips' with Councillor Lawson timing potential bus routes. Councillor Lawton provided an update and concluded, with some caveats, it was feasible for all bus departures to go from Wharf Road. The Chief Officer confirmed their remit was to determine whether buses could continue to come into the Town Centre and this project had shown that this was feasible, without too much alteration. Councillor Jackson thanked the Chief Officer and Councillor Lawton for the in-depth work they had completed. Their verbal update was received.

29. TO COMMENCE THE PERIOD OF BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS. BUDGET REPORT AND CURRENT ACTION PLAN ATTACHED; PROPOSALS TO BE FORULATED FOR THE NOVEMBER 2022 RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chief Officer noted that Councillors had received an action plan and budget report to aid their considerations about priorities in 2023-23. The action plan would be reviewed over the next month and proposals relevant to this Committee would be discussed at the November meeting; this would then be considered further by the Finance Strategy and Management Committee.

Councillor Rogers left the meeting at 8.20pm.

30. JOBS FOR LENGHTSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Yates requested some trimming and remounting of a bench at the Pocket Park on Dorset Drive.

Mr James Connolly, Mr Joe Yates and Councillor Jackson left the meeting at 8.21pm.

Councillor Salt requested the overgrown hedge in the alley way between Slater Street and St John's Road be cut back and raised concerns about weeds along John Street going up to Gunn Street. The Chief Officer said this was an issue across the town and suggested she raise it with Highways. Councillor Yates

agreed with Councillor Salt and the Chief Officer, mentioning the weeds at Smokies Way car park.

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.

31. TO RECEIVE TWO UPDATES IN RELATION TO GRAVE QUERIES

Updates were duly noted.

Mrs Susan Booth and Councillor Smith left the meeting at 8.35pm.

32. TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PEBBLES AT THE BIDDULPH GRANGE COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE

The quotation was moved by Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.

33. TO CONSIDER LAND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE TOWN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

There were no additional updates to provide.

The meeting ended at 8.39 pm.

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