

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 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 E E Baddeley | • Councillor N R Yates |
| • Councillor D A Hall | • Councillor J T Jones |

Councillors Garvey, Baddeley, Salt, Smith and Yates were present 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 & Governance Officer
- Mrs Ange Williams – Administrator Officer
- Councillor J Davies
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor A J McLoughlin

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded and accepted for:

- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor S Rushton

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations: None
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: None

36. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 11 October 2022 were **approved and signed**. Proposed by Councillor Perkin; seconded by Councillor Salt and agreed.

37. TO IDENTIFY ANY PROORITIES FOR FOOTPATH DEVELOPMENT IN 2022-23

Councillor Yates identified that the pathway between Biddulph Valley Way and Victoria Business Park is neglected. The land is retained by Staffordshire Moorlands, it may be possible to get match funding and for a team to get it hard surfaced.

Councillor Jackson reported that the pathway between Duke Street and Moorland Road requires bollards to stop a resident using the area as access to their garden.

Councillor Smith reported that there are damaged stiles at the top of Park Lane where it joins to Lodge Barn Road. The stile is broken from the roadside. Also, maintenance is required around the footpath at the top of Lodge Barn Road, where the footpath veers to the left-hand side.

Councillor Jones questioned whether the footpaths are the responsibility of the County Council and what the budget is for the Town Council to spend. The Chief Officer explained that the budget is usually £1,000.

38. TO CONFIRM A DATE FOR AN ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chief Officer suggested that an AGM could be held in early December, she reported that site visits have continued regularly.

39. TO CONFIRM PRIORITIES AND A PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR 2023-24

Current income and expenditure were considered.

The Chief Officer asked whether there were any projects that Councillors wished to focus on.

Councillor Salt asked whether there was any more space for cremated remains spaces; development of a new area should be a priority. Councillor Yates stated that humanity-based funerals could be an option, to scatter ashes in a woodland area or a memorial zone outside of the church yard.

Councillor Smith asked whether there was another site available for a new allotment.

The Chief Officer stated that the 93-bus budget would need to be increased, possibly from £40,000 to £48,000.

Councillor Salt stated that there could be a play area at Biddulph Grange Country Park. Councillor Jones confirmed that Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) signed the contract to take over the management of the Country Park last week. Councillor Jackson suggested that SWT could be invited to attend a future meeting.

40. JOBS FOR LENGHTSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Yates stated that the hedge at Red Cross traffic lights is overgrown, which is problematic due to it being a school route.

The Chief Officer explained that it is a job for Staffordshire County Council and should be reported to them. There is a long-standing issue in this area.

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.

41. TO RECEIVE TWO UPDATES IN RELATION TO GRAVE QUERIES

Two updates were received.

42. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF TWO NEW BENCHES AT THE BATEMAN WALK

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would make further investigations.

43. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GARDEN AREA IN THE TOWN CENTRE

The Chief Officer provided an update on a potential new garden area in the town.

Councillor Baddeley left the meeting at 8.40pm.

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

No update.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

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