

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023, 7PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance & Governance Officer
- Mr James Connolly - Biddulph Chronicle

64. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded and accepted for:

Councillor E Baddeley (absent)
Councillor N Eardley
Councillor K Harper
Councillor S Rushton

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

66. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 February 2023. Approved.
- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Transport Working Group meeting held on 16 February 2023. Received.

67. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FOLLOWING THE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING ON 28 FEBRUARY 2023

The Chief Officer gave a verbal update following the meeting, which had been chaired by Councillor Rogers. Key points were:

- Moorland Road allotment holders have some concerns about the hedges and trees surrounding the site; these are the responsibility of the District Council.
- The Moorland Road allotment holders thanked the Town Council for the hard-standing on the parking area, which had improved the area significantly.
- The parking area at the top of the Park Lane site (on Springfield Road) needed some work as this is very uneven. This would make parking for the site easier.
- The Park Lane allotment holders would like the Town Council to consider fencing in the area at the bottom of the plot. This would help with deliveries of manure, etc.
- There was consideration of whether a probation period could be instated for new tenants.
- The Park Lane allotment holders would like a noticeboard.
- There was a light-hearted discussion about toilet facilities. It was agreed that this would not be pursued at this time.
- All allotment holders thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to be involved with allotments.

Councillor Rogers confirmed that this had been a very positive meeting, and that there were some items that the Town Council could work on over the coming months.

68. TO AGREE DATES FOR ALLOTMENT SITE VISITS

It was agreed that a daytime visit would be necessary at present; perhaps an evening meeting could be arranged when the evenings are lighter. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would arrange a Wednesday morning visit in the coming weeks.

69. TO CONSIDER A REVISION TO THE BENCH POLICY ALLOWING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BENCHES BEFORE ALL PLAQUE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

The Chief Officer queried whether Councillors would be happy to amend the following section of the Bench Policy:

A4.11 Five memorial plaques shall be fitted to each bench. The bench will be purchased when all five applications have been received. Applicants should be aware that this may mean there is a delay before the bench is installed. The Council will continue to ensure that applicants are kept up-to-date about likely timescales.

The Chief Officer felt that this was a deterrent to people purchasing plaques, and wondered whether the bench could be installed as soon as there was a plaque purchased.

Councillor Jones was happy to propose that the Town Council should purchase a bench with five plaques, which could be engraved as needed. Seconded by Councillor Garvey. Agreed.

The Chief Officer would amend this part of the policy to reflect this decision.

70. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DRAINAGE WORK IN SECTION L OF THE TOWN BURIAL GROUND

The Chief Officer noted that the work was due to commence on 28 March; all graves would be cleared beforehand and photographed.

71. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Yates queried hedges on Woodhouse Land and at Knypersley traffic lights; the Chief Officer confirmed that these were the responsibility of County Highways to pursue.

Councillor Lawton wondered whether the bus stop at the top of Wedgewood Lane could be cleared.

Councillor Salt noted the need for a street cleaner along the inner relief road, opposite Briarswood.

Councillor Jones asked that grit be left on Hurst Road, as previously discussed.

Councillor Rogers left the meeting at 8.30pm.

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.

72. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BATEMAN WALK BENCHES

Councillor Hall left the meeting for the duration of this discussion.

The Chief Officer noted that she had met with Mr Broom and Mrs Clewlow who explained that the bright blue benches could not be changed without considerable cost. The Chief Officer had been forthright with her feedback and had agreed to bring this back to Councillors for their consideration.

Councillor Jones strongly disliked the colour of the benches and wanted them to be removed or changed. Councillor Smith agreed.

Councillor Perkin felt that the Town Council should enforce the rules; these would not be permitted elsewhere in the Burial Ground.

Councillor Salt noted that the Rotary support a lot of events in the town, and wondered what the costs were to changing the colour.

Councillor Jones wondered whether, as a compromise, the Town Council could contribute towards the costs of re-painting.

Councillor Yates felt this had been a very unpleasant episode and was sad about the situation.

Proposed by Councillor Salt that these benches can not continue to be blue; further discussion should be undertaken with the Rotary members about the costs. Seconded by Councillor Lawton and agreed.

Councillor Garvey abstained from the vote.

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

Councillor Salt wondered whether there had been any progress with the Shepherd Street/ Slater Street allotment site. The Chief Officer confirmed she was waiting for feedback from Chris Pike.

Councillor Jones wondered whether a small area at the end of Victoria Row could be turned into a pocket park; the Chief Officer would investigate this.

The meeting ended at 8.47pm.

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