

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 11 JULY 2023, 7.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mayor:
Councillor A K Harper• Deputy Mayor
Councillor N R Yates• Councillor N Eardley• Councillor J I M Garvey | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor A H Hart• Councillor K J Jackson• Councillor J T Jones• Councillor C Kisicki• Councillor A C Lawton• Councillor A C W Parkes |
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IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance & Governance Officer
- Ms Elizabeth Norton – Finance Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams -Administration Officer
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Wood

The Chief Officer recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

11. APOLOGIES

- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor S Rushton
- Councillor C Smith

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations. None.
- b) Other Interests; Councillor Kisicki declared an interest with Biddulph In Bloom discussed in item 16.

13. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 13 June 2023

Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded Councillor Garvey. All **Agreed**.

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Transport Working Group meeting held on 21 June 2023

Proposed by Councillor Lawton; seconded by Councillor Jones. All **Agreed**.

Councillor Jackson gave apologies for the July meeting.

14. TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO BURIAL PAPERWORK (CURRENT DOCUMENTS ARE HERE:

<https://www.biddulph.co.uk/burial/>)

The Chief Officer tabled the Interment and Memorial application forms and noted the changes. These were only minor, but it had been some time since these forms were considered.

Councillor Yates questioned whether the County Council registrars will be returning to Biddulph Town Hall. This was confirmed.

Councillor Garvey queried whether 'churchyard' should be changed to 'burial ground'.

Councillor Lawton requested whether a foreign language will be accepted on memorials. It was agreed to look into this.

All agreed to adopt the new forms.

15. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON SPRINGFIELD ROAD MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Officer presented information on the Springfield Road area highlighting the below points;

- Boulders were placed to stop cars parking there and ruining the grass.
- Parking area – allotment holders have requested that the surface is improved.
- There is a wild area at the bottom of the hill, which may need alternative management.
- The land would need to be unpinned to be able to build on; this would be too costly.

Councillors Yates reported that he is currently developing a green space and verge management policy at the District Council; this may be of interest to the Town Council. The emphasis will be on net biodiversity gain; the review is to be issued soon. Councillor Yates proposed tidying up the edge of the wild area.

Councillor Jackson requested whether the management of the Morris Homes land could be looked into.

16. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON BUTTERFLY GARDEN MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Officer presented information on the Butterfly Garden highlighting the below points;

- The area is located on the edge of the town and was previously managed by Biddulph in Bloom
- Recently been strimmed, and is maintained by the Lengthsman.
- There is a brook which enters from the pools on adjacent land
- An annual tree survey is commissioned.
- There is no improvement plan in place.

Councillor Jones questioned whether the name 'butterfly garden' was intended so the area could attract butterflies.

Councillor Garvey requested a site visit and felt a maintenance budget should be considered.

Councillor Parkes suggested a forest school area and would like to discuss a long-term plan.

Councillor Lawton questioned the water issues and the responsibility on ownership.

Councillor Redfern stated that the bushes were initially created to attract butterflies, however these had not been maintained.

17. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Kisicki reported that the bus shelter on Woodland street requires windows to be repaired. It was confirmed that this is a County Council bus shelter, and a request has been sent.

Councillor Parkes reported that the trees on Thames Drive by the post box were overgrown, and also the trees by Aldi.

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.

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

There were discussions about a number of sites within the town.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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