

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER, 7.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Deputy Mayor | • Councillor C Kisicki |
| Councillor N R Yates | • Councillor A C Lawton |
| • Councillor N Eardley | • Councillor A C W Parkes |
| • Councillor J I M Garvey | • Councillor D A Proudlove |
| • Councillor A H Hart (Chair) | • Councillor C M Smith |
| • Councillor K J Jackson | |
| • Councillor J T Jones | |

Councillors Kisicki and Yates were in attendance but did not sign the register.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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

29. APOLOGIES

- **The Mayor:**
Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor S Rushton

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

31. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 12 September 2023

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

- b) To **receive** the Notes from the Transport Working Group meeting held on 13 September 2023

Proposed by Councillor Lawton; seconded by Councillor Yates. It was **received**.

32. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MEMORIAL TESTING

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors that a review was conducted, which provided a risk assessment of those memorials that needed testing. The report was made available to those who had not seen it previously. The highest risk area across all sites was the St Lawrence's closed churchyard. After working with the diocesan at Lichfield, the consultation period has passed. A faculty was still awaited, and the testing must be completed within 2 years.

The Chief Officer noted that the quotations would be revisited for the testing activity.

Councillor Garvey proposed to action; seconded by Councillor Jones. All **agreed**.

33. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BATEMAN WALK AT THE BURIAL GROUNDS

The Chief Officer displayed a presentation on James Bateman walk, with information provided by Biddulph Rotary on future landscaping additions.

Councillor Yates suggested applying for funding from the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

There was discussion around native woodland planting, and it was suggested to view the historic plans for landscaping ideas.

Councillor Proudlove felt a plan should be developed for the area.

Councillor Jones felt the benches should be re-painted or removed.

It was proposed to accept the suggestions made regarding future planting by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Lawton. All agreed.

34. TO CONSIDER FOOTPATH PRIORITIES, INCLUDING FEEDBACK FROM THE BIDDULPH RAMBLERS

The Chief Officer informed that the Biddulph Ramblers have been invited to attend a future meeting.

The Chief Officer explained that the Trent Valley Way was being developed, mostly in the South of the county and not in Biddulph; she believed Biddulph should be involved.

The Chief Officer suggested that the footpaths would require some additional work. Councillor Jones agreed and proposed to go ahead, seconded by Councillor Garvey. All agreed.

35. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Smith stated that the new buildings patch near the railings are unkempt, she requested that the Land Registry be checked.

Councillor Kisicki requested strimming at Whitemore and weeding to the kerb edge. Also, the hedge row at Halls Road and Mow Lane are overgrown.

Councillor Yates reported that the Style at Mow Lane is broken and has collapsed he will send a 'what 3 words' to pinpoint the location.

Councillor Jones requested that the cherry tree above the community stone, which is located on the green at Biddulph Moor, be crown-lifted, preferably before the event to be held on 5 November 2023.

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.

36. TO CONSIDER ACTION IN RELATION TO AN ONGOING ISSUE REGARDING DAMAGE TO HEADSTONES

The complaints were ongoing; the solicitor would be instructed.

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

No updates.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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