

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024, 7.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **Deputy Mayor**
- Councillor N R Yates
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor J I M Garvey
- Councillor A Holdsworth
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor A C W Parkes (Chair)
- Councillor C M Smith

Councillor Eardley was in attendance but did not sign the register.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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

64. APOLOGIES

- Councillor D A Proudlove (Absent)
- Councillor S Rushton (Absent)
- Councillor A Hart

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

66. MINUTES

To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024.

The Minutes were **signed** as an accurate record of the meeting.

67. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FOOTPATH PROJECTS WITHIN THE TOWN:

a) Moorlands Walking Festival

The Chief Officer reported that she attended a meeting recently to discuss the Moorlands Walking Festival. The Festival will run from 26th April until 6th May.

The Chief Officer stated that the website; [Staffordshire Moorlands Walking Festival \(staffsmoorlandswalkingfestival.co.uk\)](http://staffsmoorlandswalkingfestival.co.uk) lists the walks that are available throughout Staffordshire Moorlands. The Chief Officer stated that during the meeting there were discussions relating to the areas within Staffordshire Moorlands that are missing from the programme; there was also discussion regarding themed walks and urban walks, and walks suitable for families and children.

There was a consideration around engaging with the Festival earlier next year.

Councillor Parkes stated that he is working with Matt Swindlehurst who has been involved with Tourism.

b) Trent Valley Way

The Chief Officer stated that a potential route from Trent Head Well had been mapped and sent to the ranger at Staffordshire County Council, who will walk the route and respond with recommendations of what work needs to be done.

Councillor Smith questioned whether the Ranger at Staffordshire County Council would consider other potential routes.

c) Emerging Walks Guides

The Chief Officer reported that a gentleman had approached and requested whether the Town Council would support him in providing a map for local walks. The Chief Officer suggested to bring a draft back to this Committee. All agreed.

68. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MEMORIAL TESTING AT THE TOWN BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCHYARD

The Chief Officer reported that although a previous quote for memorial testing had been proposed and agreed, the company had since replied explaining that they were not able to complete the work stipulated in the Faculty. Therefore, the Chief Officer suggested that another company should be approached. A further quotation would be sought and agreed at the Finance Strategy and Management Committee. All **agreed**.

It was agreed that this was disappointing, particularly as this had been a priority for the Town Council for some time.

Councillor Holdsworth left at 8.39pm.

69. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Yates requested research into a footpath between Marshfield lane and Pointon's nursery.

Councillor Kisicki requested a breakdown of the lengthman's jobs that have been completed throughout the past year.

Councillor Parkes requested whether the Town Council have a record of the memorial benches located around the town. It was discussed that only the memorial benches within the burial grounds are the Town Council's responsibility.

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.

70. TO RECEIVE A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Councillor Jackson proposed to move forward with the scheme design; seconded by Councillor Yates. All **agreed**.

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

Investigations would be ongoing.

The meeting ended at 9.03pm

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