

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019

PRESENT

- The Mayor Councillor Davies
- The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Jones
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Barlow
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Yates

Other Attendees:

- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Rushton

1.19 ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Davies called for nominations for the Chair of this Committee.

Councillor Jackson nominated Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Rushton.

Councillor Jones nominated Councillor Hart; seconded by Councillor Garvey.

There was a vote and Councillor Hart was elected as Chair.

Councillor Hart called for nominations for the Deputy Chair of this Committee.

Councillor Jackson nominated Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Rushton.

Councillor Jones nominated Councillor Garvey; seconded by Councillor Davies. There was a vote and Councillor Garvey was elected as Deputy Chair.

Councillor Salt noted that there were five women on this Town Council; not one female was represented as a Chair or Deputy Chair. Women should be fairly represented in senior positions; Councillor Salt encouraged the Independent Group to nominate female Councillors.

Councillor Jones reminded Councillor Salt that the Independent Group had nominated her to be the Mayor.

Councillor Rogers noted that the Independent Group had been elected to be the controlling Group to run the town.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from:

- Councillor Harper

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:
None.

b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon in anything relating to Biddulph in Bloom.

4. TO CONSIDER PROGRESSION OF THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE APRIL 2019 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING THAT A SMALL WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED TO FOCUS ON TOWN CENTRE HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Councillor Hawley is not a member of this Committee, but noted that there was an AECOM report that looked at the town centre; Councillor Hawley was concerned that this Working Group would be duplicating work that had already been undertaken.

Councillor Jones felt this was a 'fair point'. The Working Group should explore that they can achieve, and should be made up of those representing the town centre.

Councillors who would attend this Group included:

- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Yates
- Councillor McLoughlin
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Rushton
- Councillor Barlow
- Councillor Garvey

Agreed.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BIDDULPH NETWORK MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2019

The Chief Officer noted that a presentation had been given by Sue Smith from Rethink about mental health services that were provided in the town. Feedback had been received that the format was useful, including a presentation and exchange of information.

The first task for the group is that a central place is needed to find out what is going on in the town. The next meeting will focus on the development of a 'directory', which will be led by the Town Council.

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 10 July, 4pm.

Councillor Rushton noted that the building previously occupied by the U3A would be occupied by a young people's group; Councillor Rogers was pleased to hear this.

6. TO CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP OF THE 93 BUS WORKING GROUP

The Chief Officer confirmed that she would be meeting with D&G on Thursday 20 June at 10am; she would be discussing monitoring information and how to increase usage.

It was agreed that members of the Working Group would be Councillors Jones, Hall, Redfern, Brady and Adrian Lawton.

Councillor Salt queried whether a campaigner for the service could also join the Group; Councillor Jones felt that feedback from the general public was valuable.

This was agreed.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE INSURANCE CLAIM FOR THE GATES AT THE TOWN BURIAL GROUND

The Chief Officer noted that funds totalling £3048.50 had now been received for the repair and refurbishment of the gates at the Town Burial Ground. It had taken a long time for the insurance companies to agree to this compensation. The deposit would now be paid to Ironage Design to secure the work.

Councillor Hart felt it had been the right thing to wait for this to be settled, rather than carrying out the work.

8. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON ONGOING ALLOTMENT PROJECTS **Please note, items 8 and 9 are intended to give Councillors an overview of previous considerations. Future agenda items will contain detail about specific projects.**

The Chief Officer noted that the Park Lane allotment holders had requested that the Town Council re-consider the bottom area of the site. A previous quotation was for £2500, which would include fencing, gates and hardcore (document tabled). Plotolders felt that this was reasonable. The area would be used to store items for the site, e.g. manure and other deliveries.

The Chief Officer also confirmed that there were a number of vacancies currently. There are now less than 10 people on the waiting list. Would Councillors be happy for allotments to be publicised more widely?

Councillor Hart wondered whether there should be a site visit to Park Lane.

Councillor Sheldon noted that the plotolders at Park Lane had put in enormous efforts themselves to improve the site. It was difficult with deliveries to the site, which have to be left in the road. Councillor Sheldon encouraged to Committee to look sympathetically on this request.

Councillor Garvey would like to attend a site visit.

Councillor Salt felt that the ploholders knew what was needed. This Committee should undertake a site visit and also investigate more quotes for the work.

Councillor Yates queried if the Town Council owned the land; the Chief Officer confirmed that this was the case.

Councillor Salt wondered if there was any progress with the development of the Slater Street site. The Chief Officer was aware that a complaint had been submitted in relation to the inaction/non-prioritisation by Officers at the District Council.

Councillor Jackson confirmed that the Chief Executive of the District Council should be actioning this.

All agreed to investigate further quotes for the work at Park Lane.

Councillors Rogers, Brady and Barlow would also like to attend a site visit.

Councillor Yates wondered whether consideration should be given to the next site, after the Slater Street site.

9. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON ONGOING FOOTPATHS PROJECTS

The Chief Officer noted that the issue with the blockage on footpath 89 was still ongoing.

The Chief Officer had invited Paul Rochfort to visit the Clough to consider restoration of the footpath; Ramblers should be invited to a future meeting.

The Chief Officer believed that Briarswood remains an ongoing issue; were Councillors aware of any developments?

Finally, the Chief Officer noted that Morris Homes had visited the Springfield Road site; the Chief Officer had pressed for feedback in relation to the damaged footpath.

Councillor Yates felt that the Briarswood path was dangerous and slippery; it was very poor provision. The whole area is unkempt and in a poor state.

Councillor Rogers noted that Councillor Lovatt had spent many hours trying to resolve this.

Councillor Yates volunteered to take this forward; the Chief Officer would pass over any information that was available.

Councillor Salt noted that the lighting on this path is an issue too.

Councillor Sheldon confirmed that there is a resident's group who pay a management fee. Councillor McLoughlin noted that the management company should be responsible for the maintenance.

Councillor Rogers queried whether the lengthsman could look at Footpath 23.

Councillor Yates wondered how to report jobs to the lengthsman.

Councillor Yates had been attempting to improve areas of Biddulph Valley Way. He had met with Nicola Kemp and Emma Mortimer from the District Council. They had reassured Councillor Yates that the surface would be relayed on certain areas and the drainage ditches would be cleared. There would also be work on broken stiles; fencing would also be replaced with hedges. Councillor Yates noted that there was a lack of connectivity between budgets.

The District Council Officers had provided assurances that any underspend this year would be used to improve the cycle path that ran behind the Victoria Business Park.

Councillor Yates noted that British Coal own the further section further along from the Victoria Business Park; he would contact them to understand their plans.

Emma Mortimer had been amazed by the cross-section of users.

Councillor Sheldon noted that the section at Brindley Ford is awful; the 'sticking point' has always been the Coal Authority.

Councillor Salt thanked Councillor Yates for his work on this issue.

Councillor Jones requested that the lengthsman be added to the agenda as a standing agenda item. Agreed.

The meeting closed at 8 pm

Signed Date