

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT

- The Mayor - Councillor Jones
- The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Rushton
- Councillor Barlow
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor Yates

Other Attendees:

- Councillor Jackson

7. **APOLOGIES:** None.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:** Councillor Sheldon in anything pertaining to Biddulph in Bloom.
- Other Interests:** None.

Councillor Hart noted that Councillor Harper had requested that the mining lamps on the Church Road roundabout be considered by this Committee; Councillor Hart had agreed that they should be added to the Town and Community Committee agenda.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 8 September 2020 were approved and would be signed when appropriate.

10.LENGTHSMAN - Standing agenda item - New jobs for the Lengthsman

Councillor Yates would like a section of the Meadows Way heading South at the junction of Tunstall Road to be added to the work list.

Councillor Barlow requested that the section of road between the Butterfly Garden and Mill Hayes Road cleared.

Councillor Sheldon reiterated a previous request about the Staffordshire-Cheshire county boundary.

Councillor Rogers noted that Councillor Flunder should be the first point of contact regarding the bypass grass/hedge cutting.

Councillor Smith wondered whether there had been any clarification about the ownership of Edgeview Court/Slater Street; this area still needed tidying up. In addition, Park Lane/Mayfield Road needed attention.

Councillor Jackson noted that Sharon Wheeler from Your Housing had promised a response regarding the ownership of alleyways.

11.TREES

To consider and approve an approach to tree planting across the town, in order to create a Tree Strategy

Councillor Salt had sought information from the District Council in relation to tree planting; this response would be circulated. There would be a Green Infrastructure Strategy and a Tree Planting Strategy in 2021.

Councillor Garvey wondered whether there should be an ambitious 'plant two or three trees for every one removed' strategy.

The Chief Officer had prepared a brief document that provided context about the national and local approaches to the management of trees; this would be sent to Councillors for further thoughts.

Councillor Sheldon noted that Biddulph in Bloom had been planting trees for 30 years; she would draw up a plan of planted areas.

Councillor Hart agreed with Councillor Garvey's approach; he would share a magazine with the Chief Officer, which contained useful information.

Councillor Yates stated that the Natural Environment Sub-Group within the District Council were considering this issue. There would be a review of the District Council open spaces, with involvement from town and parish councils.

Councillor Smith felt this was an issue that needed to be resolved quickly; trees needed to be planted and land should be identified.

Councillor Harper felt that planting on flood areas should be considered.

Councillor Yates felt that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group should lead on this issue; the tasks could be delegated.

Councillor Garvey felt that there should be a per capita target for tree planting for the town.

Councillor Smith would like to involve the schools with this project.

Councillor Hart noted that any document should be achievable.

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.

It was agreed that this item would involve consideration of an individual and should be treated confidentially.

12. TO CONSIDER THE EXPENSES PAYMENTS PAID FOR OPENING/CLOSING WOODHOUSE BURIAL GROUND

It was agreed to revisit the Volunteer Policy.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Signed Date