

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2022, 6.30PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

PRESENT:

- **The Mayor:**
Councillor J Garvey
- **Deputy Mayor:**
Councillor C R Perkin
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor D A Hall
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor A H Hart
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor W Rogers
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C M Smith
- Councillor N R Yates

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Councillor A J McLoughlin
- Councillor K J Jackson

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Garvey called for the Election of a Chair. Councillor Hall nominated Councillor Hart; seconded by Councillor Harper.

Councillor Yates nominated Councillor Rogers; seconded by Councillor Salt. There was a vote. Councillor Hart received six votes; Councillor Rogers received five votes. Both Councillor Garvey and Councillor Rogers abstained. Councillor Hart was elected as Chair.

Councillor Hart called for the election of a Deputy Chair. Councillor Harper nominated Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Hall.

Councillor Yates nominated Councillor Salt; seconded by Councillor Smith. There was a vote. Councillor Jones received six votes; Councillor Salt received four votes. Councillor Jones was elected as Deputy Chair.

2. APOLOGIES

- Councillor E E Baddeley (Absent) and Councillor S Rushton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) Other Interests: Councillors Perkin and Smith are involved with the Children First Learning Partnership.

4. MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 12 April 2022 were **approved and signed**; proposed by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor Jones. Agreed.
- b) The notes from the Transport Working Group meeting held on 18 May 2022 were **received**.

5. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR USE IN 2022-23 (ATTACHED):

- a) Allotment Policy

Councillor Garvey was concerned that the Town Council should continue to maintain the ban on pesticides that affect bees.

- b) Burial Policy

Councillor Yates proposed to accept both documents; seconded by Councillor Garvey and agreed.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATES IN RELATION TO:

- a) Grass cutting at the Burial Grounds

The Chief Officer advised that there had been a number of complaints about the quality of grass cutting at the Burial Grounds. The contractors had started in May and were attempting to get on top of significant growth that had taken place between November 2021 and May. There had also been heavy rainfall during this time.

Councillor Jones felt it was appropriate to allow the contractors a little longer to attempt to get this right. Councillor Hart agreed.

- b) Memorial management at the Burial Grounds

The Chief Officer reminded members that they had agreed to undertake memorial testing at the Burial Grounds. The contractor had queried whether a Faculty was needed.

The Chief Officer had made enquiries. The Church had advised that there would need to be a Faculty for testing; a further Faculty would be needed if any repairs were needed. In the first instance, the cost was in the region of £320, which would be for a set period of time.

Councillor Hall noted that the testing needed to be completed; it seemed odd that the church could stop this process.

Councillor Yates queried whether fees were received from the Church in relation to burials; the Chief Officer confirmed that they were. Councillor Yates noted that the fees were ever diminishing.

It was agreed to complete the application for the Faculty and to complete as much testing as possible during this time.

c) Biddulph Grange Country Park land management

The Chief Officer updated members that discussions had been ongoing in relation to the management of the field at the Country Park, which had been discussed previously. It had been agreed that Staffordshire Wildlife Trust would manage the field; a management agreement would be put in place that would require consultation with Biddulph Town Council.

Councillor Jones had been involved in these discussions. He noted that there was no sign of the lease yet, and would chase this.

7. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

Councillor Salt hoped that the empty bed at Station Road could be planted out with bedding plants. Councillor Yates would like to see this too.

Councillor Rogers hoped that the Town Council would start to think about a lasting memorial for Councillor Sheldon.

Councillor Harper wondered who was responsible for the overgrown plants on the corner of Grange Road by the Country Park; it was believed that this was District Council.

Councillor Salt updated members that she had asked the District Council to tidy up the area where the lanterns had been at St Johns Road. Councillor Salt queried whether it was appropriate for the Town Council to do this. There was some concern about potential electrical issues on the site.

Councillor Jones asked whether the Lengthsman could cut the Village Green at Biddulph Moor.

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.

8. TO AGREE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION REGARDING A RESERVED GRAVE AT THE TOWN BURIAL GROUND

A position was agreed; the Chief Officer would write to the family.

9. TO CONSIDER ACTION IN RELATION TO FOOTPATH 89

It was agreed to pursue legal proceedings.

10. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN RELATION TO A DAMAGED BENCH IN BROWN LEES

It was agreed to contact County Highways and also to ask for additional support from the Police.

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

The Chief Officer provided an update.

The meeting ended at 8.48pm.

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