

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 12 JULY 2022, 7.15PM  
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR**

**PRESENT:**

- **The Mayor:**
  - Councillor J Garvey
- **Deputy Mayor:**
  - Councillor C R Perkin
- Councillor E E Baddeley
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor D A Hall
- Councillor K Harper
- Councillor A H Hart
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor W Rogers

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman – Compliance & Governance Officer
- Mrs Susan Booth – Customer Support Assistant
- Work Experience Placement
- Councillor J Davies
- Mr James Connolly – Biddulph Chronicle

**12.APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded and accepted for:

- Councillor S Rushton
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C M Smith
- Councillor N R Yates

**13.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations:  
None declared.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: None declared.

## **14.MINUTES**

- a) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022 were **approved and signed**. Proposed by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Perkin and agreed.
  
- b) The notes from the Transport Working Group meeting held on 29 June 2022 were **received**.

## **15.TO CONFIRM THAT THE TENDER FOR SPRINGFIELD ROAD GRASS CUTTING AND BURIAL GROUND MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN ADVERTISED**

The Chief Officer confirmed the grass cutting at Springfield Road and at the Burial Ground needs to go back out to tender and would be advertised; subject to Councillor's approval.

Councillor Jackson suggested it would be useful to request two prices for comparison, one to cut and one to cut and collect as he receives complaints about grass cuttings. Councillor Hart said this was a valid request.

Proposed by Councillor Harper; seconded by Councillor Jones and agreed.

## **16.TO CONSIDER A DRAFT OPTIONS APPRAISAL DOCUMENT FROM AMEY FOR THE REDESIGN OF THE HIGH STREET (DOCUMENT SENT SEPARATELY)**

The Chief Officer confirmed she had received a first draft of what a possible redesign of the High Street might look like – this was displayed on screen. The Chief Officer talked through the design; there was discussion with regard to pedestrianised areas, residents parking bays, bus access, etc. The Chief Officer advised that if Councillors were happy with the principles of the design we could start to look at bus routes, etc. in more depth.

Councillor Jones confirmed he liked the concept; the initial draft was a pretty good start.

Councillor Lawton had concerns about potential changes to bus routes, to accommodate the new arrangements; he urged caution with regard to potential changes.

Councillor Jackson suggested we meet with the bus companies to get them onboard early – to discuss the proposals. The Chief Officer confirmed that if Councillors were happy to move forward with the concept she would contact D&G and First to understand how we can work together to make it work.

Councillor Davies confirmed he was in favour of the concept, but requested that the second draft includes the positions of shops, to see how parking bays relate to the structures that are already there.

Councillor Jones proposed the concept is moved forward in principle; seconded by Councillor Harper and agreed. Councillor Lawton abstained.

## **17. TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP IN RELATION TO FREE BUS TRAVEL ON THE 93 SERVICE**

The Chief Officer advised Councillor Yates had attended the Transport Working Group to seek Councillor's thoughts/advice with regard to providing free bus travel from October to March on the 93 service, funded by the Town Council.

Councillor Lawton provided 93 bus usage data - 12% of passengers had bought single tickets in June and 86% had presented national bus passes. The remaining 2% had bought multi-ride tickets. Councillor Lawton queried if bus riding was free was there a national regulation that made national bus passes invalid – this needs to be clarified, as if the right to use a national bus pass is removed, it would cost the Council a lot of money. If customers had got national passes, and they remained eligible, they must be persuaded to present them and not take a 'free' ride. He stated helping people in winter is important, but the termination date of any support must be made clear from the outset. All bus operators would need to buy into the scheme as trade may be lost on other services if travel is provided free on the 93.

Councillor Jones stated he had serious reservations. He was happy to investigate the proposal further, but what about those customers who aren't on the 93 bus route? If additional money was to be spent on the 93 service he said he'd prefer a service to Leek, an extended day service or a Saturday service. Councillor Rogers agreed with Councillor Jones.

Councillor Jackson suggested further investigation. If the issues could be overcome it was a laudable thing; it could increase the number of bus users and could change people's attitude to using public transport. The Chief Officer

confirmed she would complete further investigation to be discussed at the next Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting at the end of the month. Councillor Hart confirmed he agreed with Councillor Jones; people would like to see the service expanded and a Wednesday service to Leek. Councillor Jones proposed we investigate the proposal further; seconded by Councillor Lawton and agreed. Councillor Harper voted against.

**18. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PATH AND DRAINAGE WORK AT THE BURIAL GROUND; THE SECTION L TENDER WILL NOW BE ADVERTISED**

The Chief Officer confirmed re-surfacing, edging and work to improve the paths was being done now and she would prepare a tender for the Section L work. This was noted.

**19. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PARK LANE ALLOTMENT SITE FOLLOWING AN INSPECTION BY THE CHIEF OFFICER**

The Chief Officer confirmed she had completed an inspection at the Park Lane Allotment site. A couple of plots weren't being well managed, due to bereavement and ill health, and she would be sending initial letters to the allotment holders. Photographs of the allotment site were shown to Councillors on the screen.

**20. TO CONFIRM THAT THE LENGTHSMAN WILL UNDERTAKE MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN; THIS WILL BECOME A REGULAR SITE ON THE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

The Chief Officer advised that historically this piece of land had been maintained by Biddulph in Bloom at their expense, but that it was owned by the Town Council. Going forward, she suggested the Lengthsman maintained the site.

There was some discussion as to what the area should be used for and whether the land was definitely owned by the Council. The Chief Officer confirmed it was and reminded Councillors that the agenda item was to approve the maintenance of it going forward.

Proposed by Councillor Harper; seconded by Councillor Garvey and agreed.

**21. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)**

Following the Chief Officer’s circulation of grass cutting maps, Councillor Harper requested the grass area in front of his own house and his neighbour’s houses be cut. The Chief Officer confirmed this should be done by the County Council. No additional jobs were identified for the Lengthsman.

*James Connolly left the meeting at 8.18pm.*

**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.*

**22. TO CONSIDER LAND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE TOWN (STANDING ORDER ITEM)**

There was consideration of an ongoing query within the town.

The meeting ended at 8.27pm.

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