

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

**PRESENT:**

- **Mayor**  
Councillor N R Yates
- **Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor A C Lawton
- Councillor Hawley
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J Jones
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C W Parkes (Chair)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor Hawley – Substitute for Councillor Hart
- Councillor W Rogers

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

**41. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

- Councillor A Hart substitute was Councillor Hawley.
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor A Hart
- Councillor A Holdsworth
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor S Rushton (Absent)

**42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

None.

- b) Other Interests

None.

### **43. MINUTES**

To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2024

**Agreed.**

### **44. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE IN RELATION TO A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AROUND DOG WALKING AT THE BURIAL GROUNDS AND THE PERSISTENT REMOVAL AND DESTRUCTION OF SIGNAGE**

The Chief Officer noted that there is signage displayed at the burial grounds advising people that it is not an appropriate place for dog walking. There had recently been another complaint from a member of the public; people with dogs off leads is causing significant distress.

The Chief Officer also noted that signage is being removed. There has also recently been a rat problem; it was not clear whether this was exacerbated by dogs, but there may be a risk to animals as a result of the treatment for rats.

Councillor Jones wondered whether tamper-proof screws may be necessary. The Chief Officer had wondered about the creation of a byelaw. Councillor Jackson felt this was worth investigating.

Councillor Hawley suggested that the Staffordshire Moorlands dog warden could include the site in their schedule.

The Chief Officer would investigate more robust signage.

### **45. IN ADVANCE OF BUDGET SETTING, TO CONSIDER PRIORITIES FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR 2025/26**

The Chief Officer explained that the Committee's priorities should be discussed in advance of the budget setting. This could include the tendering of the lengthsman contract, or the development of the new Garden of Remembrance, or the future of the Butterfly Garden.

It was agreed to add the Butterfly Garden to a future agenda.

Councillor Parkes requested a detailed list of jobs that the lengthsman completes, in advance of tendering opportunities.

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

Councillor Jones reported that the telephone box which houses the defibrillator at Biddulph Park is not in a good condition and requested whether the Town Council could tidy it up. The Chief Officer would seek a quotation for this work.

Councillor Kisicki reported that the layby by Whittemore is overgrown. He also reported that along Tunstall Road (below New Buildings) is overgrown.

**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.*

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

Councillor Yates questioned the status of the Slater Street / Shepards Street project. This was still with the Legal Team at the District Council.

*The meeting ended at 8.00pm*

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