

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 11 JUNE 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 A Holdsworth
- Councillor A Hart (Chair)
- Councillor J T Jones
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C W Parkes
- Councillor S Rushton

Councillors Kisicki and Yates were in attendance but did not sign the attendance sheet.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Sarah M Haydon – Chief Officer (Minute Taker)
- Ms Jodie Hancock – Events and Partnerships Officer
- Mrs Margaret Warman - Compliance and Governance Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor W Rogers

Councillor Yates recited the disclaimer regarding the recording of the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

The Mayor called for nominations for the role of Chair, Councillor Hart was nominated by Councillor Jones; seconded by Councillor Parkes. There were no other nominations. All **agreed**.

Councillor Hart called for nominations for the role of Deputy Chair. Councillor Jackson nominated Councillor Parkes; seconded by Councillor Kisicki. There were no other nominations. All **agreed**.

2. APOLOGIES

- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor C Brady

- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor Rushton (Absent)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) Other Interests: None.

4. MINUTES

To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2024.

The Minutes had been received at the Town Council meeting. It was **agreed** they were an accurate record of the meeting.

5. MEMORIAL TESTING

- a) To **receive** a presentation in relation to the completed memorial safety testing across the burial sites.

The Chief Officer presented the results of the memorial testing. She noted that all memorials should be inspected at a minimum of five years. The period between inspections is determined by risk assessment. Approval was granted at the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting in March 2024 to survey all memorials across the Church Yard, Town Burial Ground and Woodhouse Burial Ground. Surveys were completed in May 2024.

Over 4000 memorials had been tested. 12 memorials have failed. The following actions have been completed:

- 2 – Laid down
- 3 – Stakes been put in place
- 4 – Cordoned off
- 3 – Need further works

The update was **received**. Consensus was that, whilst it was disappointing that there had been failures, this was a very low level given the vast number of memorials across the sites.

- b) To **agree** next steps for the management of failed memorials. The Chief Officer stated that the next steps are to:

1. Engage with the Church to identify the grave managers
2. Report to the Faculty the findings
3. Contact relevant relatives to arrange for repairs.
4. Consider future action when grave ownership has been established.

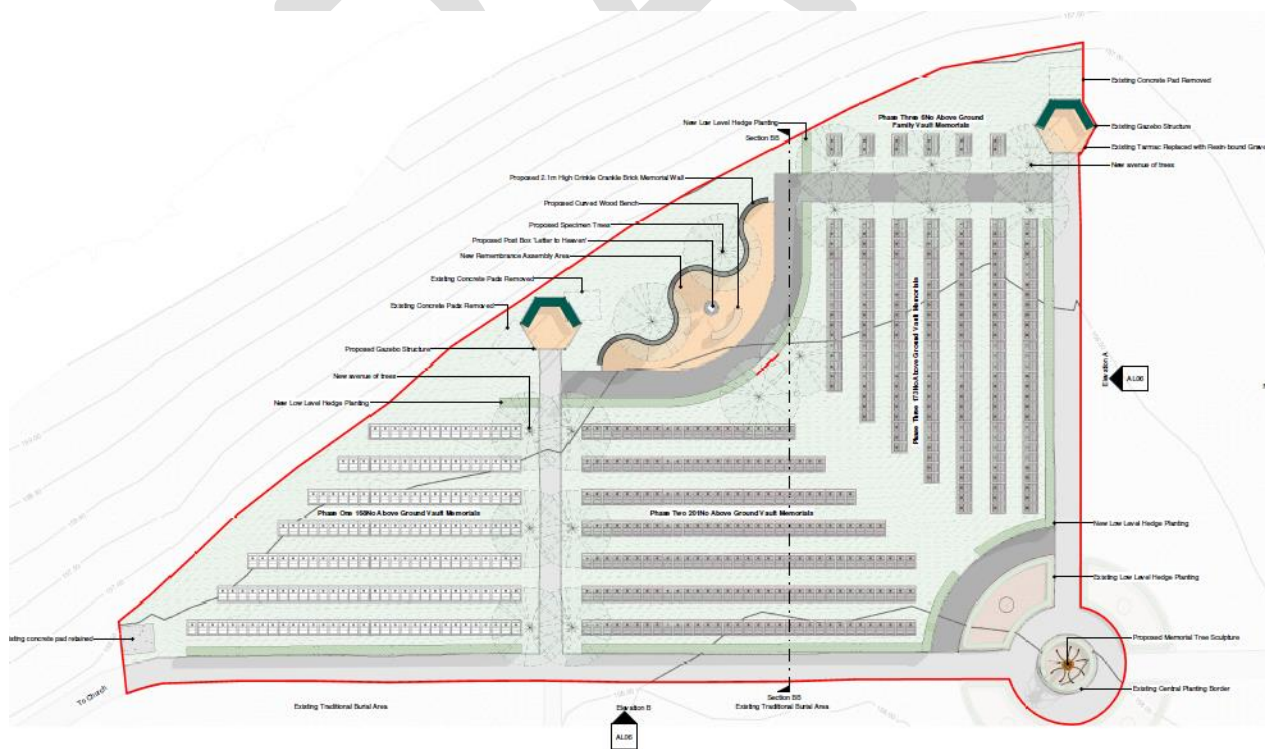
There was consideration as to whether, in the case that the grave managers could not be located, the Town Council would take steps to repair.

Councillor Yates suggested funding could be sought from the Moorland Partnership Board; the Chief Officer noted that there was a precedent for this and would make enquiries.

It was proposed by Councillor Jones, to create an action plan to be brought to a future meeting; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All agreed.

6. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The Chief Officer stated that the Committee approved in March 2024 the creation of an initial scheme design, which had now been completed:



There was a discussion around the two phases proposed. The Chief Officer

explained that the architect had suggested that planning permission would be required due to the wall being created.

It was suggested that a project group should be convened to discuss the details of the design, and report back with recommendations. Councillor Lawton raised questions to be discussed. All **agreed**.

7. TO CONSIDER AN ITEM REFERRED FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING IN APRIL 2024: HIGHWAYS CONCERNS ON HALLS ROAD

The Chief Officer explained that a member of the public previously brought an item to the Town Council, which has been referred to this Committee.

Councillor Yates stated that a survey had been previously commissioned, he recited an email received, which stated that the data has not been located from the previous survey conducted by Councillor Lawson. However, in line with Councillor Yates' future County Council priorities, a new survey will be completed for this area.

Councillor Jones noted that he is unhappy that a special case is being made for this area when there are other areas in more need. He stated that there is not a safe route with pavements coming out of the Biddulph Moor Ward.

Councillor Holdsworth stated that a freedom of information request detailed that 17 accidents have happened on Halls Road. He noted that it is a special case due to the risks posed to people and properties.

It was confirmed that the Committee will monitor the outcomes of action requested by Councillor Yates.

8. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

There were several areas put forward by Councillors:

- Chapel green on School Lane.
- Sign for Halls Road requires cleaning.
- The hedgerow along the old dye works on Congleton Road.

There was a discussion regarding the bushes on the approach to Aldi roundabout which are obscuring views; this is a job for the County Council.

9. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR HOLDSWORTH: TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AN EMAIL RECEIVED REGARDING ENHANCEMENTS AT HALL ROAD RECREATION GROUND

This item was deferred to the July Meeting.

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.

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

The Chief Officer updated members on the Briarswood site.

There was no progress with the Shepherd Street/ Slater Street site

The meeting ended at 8.24pm

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