

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 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 Hart (Chair)
- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor A Holdsworth
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J Jones
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C W Parkes
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor J Redfern

Councillors Brady, Holdsworth, Hart, Kisicki, Redfern 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 Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor Smith
- Councillor W Rogers

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

20. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUE MEMBERS

- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor S Rushton (Absent)

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

22. MINUTES

- a) To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2024

Proposed by Councillor Parkes; seconded by Councillor Harper. Councillor Holdsworth abstained from the vote. **Agreed.**

- b) To **receive** the Notes of the Transport Working Group meeting held on 26 June 2024

Proposed by Councillor Lawton; seconded by Councillor Harper. All **agreed.**

23. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE BIDDULPH SECTION OF THE TRENT VALLEY WAY

The Chief Officer reported on ongoing work with the Trent Rivers Trust and the County Council, where works on the Trent Valley Way have been taking place. Unfortunately, they do not have funding to work in the Biddulph area, however, are keen to move the project forward.

The Chief Officer reported that there have been discussions regarding Robin Hill, which is an unadopted road, and whether the Town Council can publicise a walking route along there; the Chief Officer would therefore like to take legal advice and as members of the Open Spaces Society, will ask them for clarification. Otherwise, the route takes walkers down New Street.

A few areas have been identified where capital improvement should be made and there is funding available. A Community Paths Initiative Grant from the County Council would be available.

The Chief Officer advised that waymarkers could be purchased.

Councillor Holdsworth questioned whether there was public access to the Head of the Trent. The Chief Officer stated it is on the definitive map.

24. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE KNYPERSLEY HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2024, AND NEXT STEPS

The Chief Officer reported that a meeting took place with the residents; there continue to be two issues. Firstly, residents would like the posts to be returned to the Conway Road green. Secondly, there are ongoing issues relating to parking during school collection/ drop-off times.

Councillor Yates updated that a decision was made in principle regarding the installation of the posts on Conway Road.

Councillor Salt questioned whether the Knypersley highways meeting would now stop meeting or whether it would continue to consider the parking issues around schools. If it was to continue, she would like to suggest that the area at the bottom of St. Johns Road be turned into parking spaces.

25. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AT WOODHOUSE BURIAL GROUND

The Chief Officer had circulated the most recent plan of the Garden of Remembrance at Woodhouse Burial Ground and reported that the architect had met with one of the grave diggers to take on feedback.

The Chief Officer reported that the planning application has been submitted and any further updates will be brought forward.

26. TO CONFIRM THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BENCH AT THE TOWN BURIAL GROUND AND THE CURRENT APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT OF BENCHES (WITH QUOTATION)

The Chief Officer gave an overview of the Bench Policy and advised that a number of the long-standing benches would need to be removed due to deterioration. She tabled the quotation for a 'standard' bench. Proposed by Councillor Jackson; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. All **agreed**.

27. TO CONFIRM REVISIONS TO THE ALLOTMENTS POLICY AND FINDINGS FROM A QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW (DOCUMENTS ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer stated that the process for management of allotment had been through a quality assurance review. Documents in relation to this had been included within the agenda packs. There were no issues to report, but a number of amendments to the Policy to consider.

The Chief Officer reported that a solution had been included in relation to the shared tenancy issue. The policy changes were discussed; it was agreed to add 'Chief Officers discretion' to relation to considerations about relationships.

Councillor Jackson gave his thanks for this work.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson to write to current tenants to seek their views on the policy. This is the Town Council's current position. Seconded by Councillor Salt. All **agreed**.

Councillor Holdsworth left the meeting 8.28pm.

28. TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT OF UNADOPTED ALLEYWAYS WITHIN THE TOWN

The Chief Officer reported that the Lengthsman is spending an increasingly amount of time managing the alleyways around Biddulph, which is a cost to the Town Council.

Councillor Salt proposed that a mapping exercise take place identifying which alleyways belong to who. Councillor Rogers suggested a walk around the relevant alleyways.

Councillor Jackson stated that Sharon Middling had already completed the work of mapping the alleyways. He proposed to access the data.

It was discussed that the Chief Officer request the data again, with the support of the District Councillors.

29. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR EARDLEY: TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-FORMING THE BIDDULPH SPORTS COUNCIL

Councillor Eardley stated that the Rotary have attempted to organise events and requested support from the Town Council.

Councillor Salt reported that both Leek and Cheadle Sports Council are folding as people are not able to find the time.

There was a discussion regarding a Moorlands Sports Council that had been previously suggested instead of a Town Sports Council, being led by Councillor Matt Swindlehurst.

The Chief Officer questioned whether there would be funding available through this.

It was proposed by Councillor Rogers to write to Matt Swindlehurst to find out proposals of a Moorlands Sports Council; seconded by Councillor Harper. All **agreed.**

Councillor Jackson wondered whether it would be possible to find out how much is in the bank account for the Biddulph Sports Council.

30. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

A number of areas were discussed and discounted. The lengthsman would be tasked with looking at the alleyway off New Street, which requires cutting back.

There was a discussion regarding the Kidsgrove Lengthsman and how he publishes on Facebook the jobs he completes, and whether the Biddulph Lengthsman can do the same.

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.

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

Nothing to report.

The meeting ended at 9pm

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