

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 9 JULY 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 K J Jackson
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C W Parkes
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor J Redfern

*Councillor Redfern was 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.*

**10. APOLOGIES**

- Councillor S Rushton (Absent)
- Councillor J Salt
- Councillor J T Jones

**11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**12. MINUTES**

To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2024.

The Minutes from the meeting were approved as an accurate record.

**13. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR HOLDSWORTH- TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AN EMAIL SENT REGARDING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE HALLS ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Holdsworth recited an email received from Councillor Matt Swindlehurst at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in relation to changes at the Halls Road Recreation Ground.

Councillor Yates stated that a meeting had already taken place regarding this matter. Biddulph Town Councillors had not been consulted, but there would be an opportunity to feed into this process.

The Chief Officer suggested that the presentation could be circulated to all Councillors, for their information.

**14. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON REPARATIONS TO MEMORIALS FOLLOWING RECENT TESTING MEMORIAL TESTING**

The Chief Officer stated that over 4000 memorials have been tested, with 12 memorials being identified as unsafe.

A meeting had taken place at the Burial Ground with the various members of St Lawrence's Church, a formal action plan will be put together.

The Chief Officer confirmed that that the completion paperwork with the faculty had been returned to the diocese office; memorials had been made safe for now, but further work would be necessary.

The Chief Officer explained that the next step is to identify the Grave Manager of the 12 memorials, an advert will be placed in the Stoke Sentinel to request Grave Managers to come forward (in line with faculty requirements).

Councillor Parkes questioned whether the local genealogical society could be approached. The Chief Officer confirmed this could be one line of enquiry.

## **15. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE WITH FEEDBACK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE FOLLOWING A MEETING ON 27 JUNE 2024**

The Chief Officer reported that a small group attended a meeting to discuss the recommendations for the development. The proposed Sanctums were discussed, and it was agreed that they are not suitable and instead half sized headstones would be placed back-to-back.

It was agreed to incorporate the tree sculpture, crinkle-crankle wall and post box to heaven would be incorporated into the design.

The Chief Officer advised that these amendments should be put to the architect so that the plans can be amended; it also appeared that planning permission would be necessary, so this would need to move forward as soon as possible. It was discussed to split the project into two phases.

Proposed by Councillor Kisicki; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. All **agreed**.

## **16. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)**

- It was reported that the corner of Craigside had overgrown shrubbery with unidentified ownership.
- Grange Road (by the Country Park entrance) is overgrown and covers the chevron signage.
- Halls road signage is overgrown.

The Chief Officer would task the lengthsman with these jobs or try to find a resolution with the owner.

## **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.*

### **17. ITEM REQUESTED BY COUNCILLOR SMITH- TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT OF MORRIS HOMES LAND**

A number of ongoing issues were raised.

The Chief Officer suggested discussing the land with the District Council Legal team to establish the requirements of the section 106 agreement, then approach Morris Homes. All agreed with this approach.

### **18. TO AGREE ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF OVER-SIZED MEMORIALS**

The form and process would be amended, with memorial masons being informed of the change.

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

There were no items to report.

*The meeting ended at 8.07pm*

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