

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 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 C Brady
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor J Jones
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor A C W Parkes (Chair)
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor J Redfern
- Councillor J Salt

Councillor Kisicki 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 Margaret Warman - Compliance and Governance Officer
- Mrs Angela Williams – Administration Officer
- Councillor W Rogers

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

32. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor A Hart
- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor A Holdsworth
- Councillor S Rushton (Absent)

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:

Councillor Salt declared an interest the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

b) Other Interests:

None.

34. MINUTES

To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2024

Proposed by Councillor Parkes; seconded by Councillor Jackson. All **agreed**.

35. TO CONSIDER TOWN COUNCIL HIGHWAYS PRIORITIES FOR THE EMERGING COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN:

<https://letstalk.staffordshire.gov.uk/let-s-talk-transport/widgets/90069/faqs#27311>

The Chief Officer stated that Staffordshire County Council are currently compiling the local transport plan. After attending the recent Town and Parish Council session, she reported that there are eight priorities; it has been requested that Town and Parish Councils put forward three strategic priorities.

Councillor Proudlove stated that it is good to consider the priorities and suggested public transport and active travel being should be included.

Councillor Salt noted that the morning bus service to attend the local colleges should be a priority as the volume of young people is greater than the current provision.

Councillor Yates suggested safer routes and safer zones around the schools and improving the footpaths around Gillow Heath, to enable a safe route into the town centre. He also mentioned the bus connectivity to Leek.

Councillor Lawton requested to see a 'traffic free' environment that connected the town centre with Biddulph Valley Way. He noted that many of the older roads in Biddulph have become linear car parks due to homes not having private parking; he noted a foreseeable problem being when more people own an electric car. Councillor Lawton noted the congestion going past schools during peak time and also suggested the bus to Leek market as a priority.

Councillor Redfern wished to prioritise capacity issues allowing the younger generation to get to colleges and the issues relating to the parking around schools.

It was agreed that the main priorities were:

- Pedestrianisation of the High Street.
- Cycle Paths along Park Lane towards the Leisure Centre.
- Safer zones around schools including footpaths.
- Bus connections to colleges.

36. TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A TREE NETWORK AND TREE WARDEN PROJECT IN BIDDULPH

The Chief Officer stated that Biddulph Town Council are currently members of the Tree Council Charter, and noted that there isn't a tree warden in Staffordshire.

It was noted that previously it had been Hilda Sheldon.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would make further enquires with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to gauge if there is an interest in having a Tree Warden.

37. TO DISCUSS AND CONFIRM PRIORITIES FOR THE OLD TOILET BLOCK ON WHARF ROAD CAR PARK

The Chief Officer reminded Councillors that there had been an ambition to take on the old toilet block on Wharf Road car park. It had been discussed previously that this could be a good changing places facility. The Chief Officer reported that a draft lease had been received by the Solicitor.

It was agreed that a changing places facility is still a priority.

Councillor Yates questioned what the costings would be for the building.

Councillor Jackson suggested to discuss with the Health Centre their plans for a changing places facility and discuss whether there could be partnership working.

It was proposed by Councillor Salt to discuss with the Health Centre their aspirations before proceeding; seconded by Councillor Yates. All **agreed**.

38. TO CONSIDER A TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER CONSULTATION: [Have Your Say - Staffordshire Commissioner \(staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

The Chief Officer stated that there are two questionnaires on the website; fire and rescue and police and crime.

Councillor Salt declared that her husband is a firefighter. She recited a personal statement in relation to pages 33 and 44 of the consultation document in relation to the 3-rider pilot and incidents of house fires.

It was discussed that each Councillor completes the survey independently, it was agreed to circulate the link and document.

It was agreed to send a response as a council making reference to Councillor Salt's notes and noting ongoing CCTV issues in regard to the Police Crime Commissioner.

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

39. JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

There was discussion around the planting on the St. Johns roundabout and whether the shrubs require removal now that the lamps are in place. The Chief Officer would seek quotes from the tree surgeon.

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.

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

Nothing to report.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

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