

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2019**

### **PRESENT**

- The Mayor Councillor Davies
- The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Jones
- Councillor Baddeley
- Councillor Barlow
- Councillor Brady
- Councillor Garvey
- Councillor Hall
- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Hart
- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor Rogers
- Councillor Salt
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Yates

### **Other Attendees:**

- Councillor McLoughlin

### **10.19 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence and reasons accepted were received from: None.

### **11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations: None.
- b) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests: Councillor Sheldon in anything relating to Biddulph in Bloom. Minute 14 – Councillor Hart's partner is a Biddulph Ramblers Committee member.

### **12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON USAGE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE 93 BUS**

The Chief Officer and Mr Adrian Lawton had met with Mr Chris Almond at D & G headquarters.

Mr Almond offered to produce an advertising leaflet for the 93 bus service. 10,000 leaflets at a cost of £81.57. The Chief Officer had discussed with *Biddulph Times* the possibility of including this leaflet in its next delivery. The initiative would help increase awareness and usage of the service; before a decision is made to invest in the service for a further year. A copy of the proposed leaflet had been tabled. This would also be discussed further at the next meeting of the 93 Bus Working Group.

Mr Almond noted that this service was currently the most efficient of all his services in terms of arrival and departure times. The Chief Officer noted that the service always had passengers aboard when entering and leaving the town.

Councillor Jones added that the service was vital to address social inclusion and isolation matters.

Councillor Salt asked if the leaflet would have a picture of Biddulph; the Chief Officer noted that the logo would be included.

Councillor Jackson thought the timed stop was on Church Road not Church Close; the Chief Officer would seek clarification.

Councillor Rogers said that people had told him they would appreciate a service on a Saturday to get into Biddulph to shop.

Councillor Hall noted that this service slotted in between school journeys.

Councillor Jones added that the cost would be significantly more to include additional times.

Councillor Hart asked if members were happy for the Chief Officer to explore including the leaflet in the next edition of the *Biddulph Times*, any formatting suggestions should be sent to the Chief Officer; it was agreed that the Chief Officer should go ahead with the project.

### **13. BURIAL GROUND**

#### **To seek approval to progress with the following work areas:**

- **To seek quotes for re-turfing Section L**

The Chief Officer noted the drainage had been effective, but the grass in that area was poor quality; she was investigating turf which would grow well in the shade and suggested that the area in section L should be re-turfed in stages.

Councillor Jones wondered about looking for good quality artificial turf.

Councillor Sheldon said that if the area was scarified and seeded it would be better than turf.

Councillor Davies favoured grass, there was a wide choice of seeds.

Councillor Yates was not in favour of plastic grass; Councillor Sheldon agreed.

Councillor Hall asked if the Chief Officer was aware of the deterioration of the surface on the Bateman Walk, the Chief Officer responded that she was.

Councillor Sheldon wondered if paving the whole area would deter the badgers.

Councillor Hart proposed obtaining a price for both specific turf and for scarifying and seeding. Agreed.

- **To seek quotes to implement tree maintenance recommendations**

The Chief Officer had circulated the 2018 burial ground tree survey for information, especially for those not present in 2018-19, along with the 2019 Butterfly Garden tree survey. The new survey identified work which needed action. It was agreed that quotations would be sought to implement these recommendations.

- **To seek quotes for tree planting at the Town Burial Ground site**

The Chief Officer noted that tender information would be sent to local contractors and those on the current District Council arboricultural specialist list.

Councillor Salt wondered about the possibility of offering an 'adopt a tree in memory of someone' service, possibly selling plaques to go near to the new trees.

Councillor Yates wondered if a recycling bin could be located at the burial grounds.

The Chief Officer noted that the current provider sorts all collected waste and recycles appropriately. A sign advertising this would be placed in the bin area.

### **To receive an updated Bench Policy**

The policy was tabled. Councillor Salt wondered if there should be a character limit on plaques, not just two lines of narrative.

Councillor Harper suggested including a line about tree plaques.

### **14. TO NOTE WORK THAT THE BIDDULPH RAMBLERS ARE COMPLETING WITHIN THE TOWN**

The Chief Officer noted that representatives from Biddulph Ramblers would be present at the next meeting to update on work carried out and to identify where money needs to be spent.

The Chief Officer noted that the Ramblers liaised directly to the County Council and carried out minor work themselves on footpaths within the town.

Councillor Jackson wondered if this was linked to the new prioritisations of footpaths; were they working on the lower priority paths?

Councillor Harper asked if the Ramblers were covered by our insurance. The Chief Officer responded that they were covered by the County Council and their own insurances.

### **15. STANDING AGENDA ITEM - JOBS FOR THE LENGTHSMAN**

Councillor Salt reported that a Slater Street resident was unable to maintain her own hedge due to the overgrown hedge on the Slater Street redundant pathway, this had been reported to the District Council (the current owner of the pathway).

The Chief Officer responded that the pathway had been allowed to grow over to deter anti-social behaviour in the dog-legged path.

Councillor Garvey reported that the bridleway between Leek Lane and Stoneyfields was in need of attention.

Councillor Jones responded that historically this had been a Lengthsman job, but did not seem to be on the list.

Councillor Hart had spoken to Mr Stokes at the District Council about the Slater Street path and delays with this proposed allotment site.

Councillor Jackson had also spoken to Mr Stokes following a complaint by former Councillor Lovatt about the inaction of the District Council. She had been working on getting this site available for allotment use for a number of years. Mr Stokes was happy to push this forward as a priority.

Councillor Rogers asked if there had been an update on the path between Diamond Close and the Health Centre, there had not.

Councillor Yates expressed concern about the state of the hedge on the Halls Road Playing Fields, especially adjacent to the roadway.

Councillor Sheldon noted that there were several holes in the hedge, most had been visible for a number of years.

Councillor Davies noted the pathway between The Uplands and Woodhouse Lane needed attention.

Councillor Jones cautioned that we should find out who was responsible first before calling on the Lengthsman.

Councillor Jackson said we should be very careful not to take responsibility for other people's areas; it would be great if we had it all under our control, we should get grass-cutting under our control.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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