

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, BIDDULPH TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025, 7PM
HELD AT BIDDULPH TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDDULPH ST8 6AR.**

PRESENT:

- **Mayor**
Councillor N R Yates
- **Deputy Mayor**
Councillor A Lawton
- Councillor C Brady
- Councillor C Kisicki
- Councillor K J Jackson
- Councillor D A Proudlove
- Councillor A C W Parkes (Chair)

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.

56.APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

- Councillor A K Harper
- Councillor A Hart
- Councillor J Jones
- Councillor J Redfern (Absent)
- Councillor J Salt

57.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:

None.

- b) Other Interests:

None.

58.MINUTES

To **approve and sign** the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2025

All **agreed** and **signed**.

59.TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025 AND TO AGREE FUTURE ACTIONS

The Chief Officer reported that the meeting was well attended by allotment holders.

The Chief Officer stated that the introduction of a registered partner was well received alongside recent changes made to the policy.

The Chief Officer reported that the actions requested from both sites were as follows:

Park Lane

Neighbouring hedges were too high, which have now been dealt with.

There were reports of glass on footpaths and trimming of a mulberry tree; the Administration Officer would investigate these issues.

Moorland Road

Hedges around the perimeter of the site require trimming; the Administration Officer would request that the District Council cut these back.

Both sites

Requested a slight amendment to poly tunnel size within the Policy. Plot holders also queried whether regular muck and wood chipping deliveries could be looked into.

The Chief Officer explained that Barry Harrison, who had been secretary for Park Lane, is unwell. A card had been sent on behalf of the Town Council. It was confirmed that Mr Mick Peers will take on the role of secretary for Park Lane Allotments.

Councillor Rogers reported that it was a pleasure to chair the meeting, as all actions from last year were completed and all plot holders were happy and positive.

The Chief Officer reported that she had discussed the upcoming event 'Homegrown and Handmade'; all allotment holders expressed excitement about getting involved and stated that the Garden Festival was a great event last year.

60.TO CONFIRM ACTIONS IN RELATION TO REPAIRS TO MEMORIALS AT THE BURIAL GROUNDS

The Chief Officer stated that, as previously mentioned, after the memorial testing took place, there were 12 memorials that were marked as unsafe. She stated that grave managers were sought; the Church had been unable to identify the families.

The Chief Officer stated that funding to fix the memorials could come from Moorlands Partnership Board.

Councillor Jackson proposed to move forward with an application; seconded by Councillor Brady. All **agreed**.

61.TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS FOR THE NEW GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AT WOODHOUSE BURIAL GROUND (PLANNING DECISION ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer discussed the planning decision, which was approved with conditions to submit a bio-diversity net gain plan and a habitat plan. The Chief Officer explained there will be a fee attached to those.

Proposed by Councillor Proudlove to work with the architect to secure a quote for the above plans; seconded by Councillor Yates. All **agreed**.

Councillor Jackson proposed to put together a working group to take this project forward; seconded by Councillor Brady. All **agreed**.

62.TO APPROVE A HALF-SIZED MEMORIAL FOR THE NEW GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AT WOODHOUSE BURIAL GROUND (DESIGN AND MEMORIAL APPLICATION ATTACHED)

The Chief Officer had circulated an image of a half size memorial, and an amended memorial application form including the sizes of half size memorial.

Proposed by Councillor Lawton to approve the design and size but then look into lettering and specific designs; seconded by Councillor Proudlove. All **agreed**.

63.JOBS FOR LENGTHSMAN (STANDING AGENDA ITEM)

The Chief Officer advised that some funding had been received from Councillor Flunder to tidy up some footpaths in the Biddulph East ward. His Divisional Highways allocation would also be spent on parking leaflets for schools. There was a discussion relating to the ownership of the bench located opposite the Matador, as it requires a repair. This is a Biddulph in Bloom bench.

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.

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

There was a discussion relating to the assets within the town, including the car parks, currently managed by SMDC.

It was agreed to get hold of a list of all the assets that belong to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Proposed by Councillor Proudlove; seconded by Councillor Lawton. All **agreed**.

**65.TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH (EMAIL
REQUEST ATTACHED)**

The Chief Officer had circulated an email request from a family who would like to purchase a bench in their son’s memory. This was not in-keeping with the current Policy.

Proposed by Councillor Lawton; seconded by Councillor Proudlove to try and find a suitable location for the bench. All **agreed**.

The meeting ended at 7.32pm

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