

**Minutes of a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee, held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster, on Tuesday 24 November 2015 starting at 19:30hrs**

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr S Shepherd

**Councillors:** Cllr F Albin, Cllr P Burton, Cllr R Drayton, Cllr J Fagan, Cllr J Fowler, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr D Kinder, Cllr R Neave, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr J Sothern, Cllr S Storey, Cllr R Swann and Cllr T Walker.

**In Attendance:** Mr R Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden) and Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting

**OS46 Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors were present.

**OS47 Declarations of Interest.**

The declarations of interest outlined in the table below were made.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Minute No</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>Action</b>
Agenda 8 To consider a request from Ilminster Football Club to hold a bonfire event annually	OS53	Personal	Family used to hold the annual bonfire event	Spoke and voted

**OS48 Minutes**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record
- (ii) to note the action list relating to the Open Spaces committee

Issues raised during consideration of the action list included:

- there have been no further complaints about the long grass along the canal bank
- skatepark - initial ideas are being discussed by the Play and Paths Sub Group
- safety surfacing in the play areas will be monitored as part of the weekly safety checks especially those referred to in the annual safety inspection.

**OS49 Police Report**

There was no written police report and no policing matters were raised or reported.

**OS50 Wardens Report.**

The Committee receives the report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster.

Issues raised during consideration of the report included:

- measures to be taken on the slippery grass path by The Incline garages include the possibility of putting down chippings and sand to absorb excess moisture

- Councillors thanked the Open Spaces Team for all their work especially the support for the bonfire event and the preparations for the refurbishment of Winterhay Lane

#### **OS51 Metal Detecting Search Agreement**

The Committee considered (a) whether or not to adopt a Metal Detecting Search Agreement and

(b) whether to adopt the National Council for Metal Detecting Model Search Agreement.

Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included:

- with so many sports pitches there may be dangers in allowing people to dig if they think they have a find
- people may not restore the ground properly when they have dug it
- it would be difficult to monitor when and where metal detecting is taking place.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council's policy is not to allow metal detecting on Town Council owned and managed land except when clearing the ground surface after events and no digging is required.

#### **OS52 To Consider a Request from Greenfylde School to Collect Shrubs from Herne Hill**

A request from Greenfylde School to take a group of children up Herne Hill to collect a few shrubs to transplant into their forest school classroom was considered.

Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included

- good to encourage children and young people to learn more about Herne Hill and wildlife generally

**RESOLVED** to allow Greenfylde School, under the supervision of the Senior Open Spaces Warden, to dig and remove some shrubs from Herne Hill to transplant in their forest school.

#### **OS53 To Consider a Request from Ilminster Football Club to hold a Bonfire Event Annually**

Ilminster Town Football Club had written to thank the Town Council for their support in hosting this year's successful Bonfire Evening and requested the Town Council's permission to use Brittens' Field for an annual event on the Sunday nearest to 5<sup>th</sup> November

Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included

- the completion of the new football and community facility may necessitate changes the layout used for the event
- families like to be able to attend local events
- it is much safer to have a professionally organised firework display and bonfire than people letting off fireworks at home
- the 2015 was well organised
- the 2015 event was very well attended
- all ages and other community groups took part in staging the 2015 event
- giving the any organisation permission to organise an event in perpetuity may present problems in the future should circumstances change and the Town Council wish to withdraw the permission
- other events using Council owned / managed land are required to pay a deposit
- some concerns were raised that this year's event took place on Remembrance Sunday
- A review immediately after the event is important to check if there has been any damage to the ground and if there were any other problems that need to be resolved
- a quick, informal review took place on the Monday morning following the 2015 event with representatives of the football club ,the Senior Open Spaces Warden and the Town Clerk

- firework event companies need to be booked a long time in advance
- members of the Open Spaces Team worked flexibly so they could be on hand during the preparations for the 2015 event and during the event itself – as well as doing their usual work such as litter picking and leaf clearance they were able to provide information and assistance regarding such matters as transporting the fireworks across the Rec and the siting of water sources

**RESOLVED**

- (i) to support the principle of an annual event in Britten's field, organised by Ilminster Town Football Club, subject to an annual review (taking place within 1 month of the annual event being staged) and the submission of the relevant documents such as lay out plans and risk assessments
- (ii) permission is given to Ilminster Town Football Club to hold a firework and bonfire event in 2016 on the nearest Sunday to November 5<sup>th</sup>, subject to (i) above and the ground conditions being suitable
- (iii) A £500.00 deposit to be lodged with the Town Council each year before the event which will be refunded provided that there is no ground damage or any other reason for which the Town Council needs to make expenditure as a result of the event

.Note: Cllr Neave declared a personal interest in this agenda item as her family used to hold the annual bonfire event.

The meeting closed at 20.20hrs