

**ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL  
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 19:30hrs

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr C Goodall

Councillors: Cllr P Burton, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr V Higgins, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr R Neave, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Storey and Cllr R Swann.

**In Attendance**

Officers: Mr A Jones (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

No members of the public attended this meeting.

**161. Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Committee were asked to suspend standing order 1m, which relates to photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings as a new legislation allows members of the public the right to record a meeting.

**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 1m.

**162. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shepherd, Sothern and Taylor

**163. Declarations of Interest.**

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any items on the Agenda

**164. Minutes.**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on **28<sup>th</sup> October 2014** as a correct record.
- (ii) To note the action list relating to the Open Spaces committee

Items raised in relation to the action list included the following:

- The new drainage pipe on Herne Hill is situated high into the path deliberately
- The gravedigger has been to the cemetery and done some remedial work on recent graves
- The Open Spaces Team have lightly cut the grass on the slope with the Stiga and will finish the task with the new machine when it arrives

**165. Police Report**

A police report was provided for Planning, Highways & Transport Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 and there was no further report for this meeting.

**166. Wardens Report.**

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

Items brought to the attention of the committee included the following:

- The grill in the canal, installed by the Angling Club, is not as agreed with the Environment Agency
- Street lighting is mainly the responsibility of Somerset County Council; when reporting an outage it is helpful to give the lamp number as well as street.

Chair's Initials

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**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk sends a letter to Angling Club asking them to install grill as previously agreed and advise that if they have taken no action within 2 weeks of the date of the letter the Town Council will do it and charge the Angling Club for the work

### 167. Circus Visit

The Committee considered the charges for the use of Recreation Ground Wharf lane Recreation Ground.

Items discussed during consideration for this item included:

- Charges at other places
- Funfair costs
- Need to encourage attendance

**RESOLVED** that the All Human Circus be charged

- £50.00 per day including amenities for the days they are open
- £500.00 refundable deposit

### 168. Financial Comparison

The Committee received information about the Open Spaces Committee expenditure and commitments to date compared with the 2014/15 budget including separate information about the Recreation Ground Kiosk

Issues discussed included:

- Burial fee income
- Mobile phone expenditure and contract renewal dates
- Budget line 563/3 - potential reasons why water for the toilets is overspent
- Budget line 585 - project contingency - reasons for expenditure from this budget heading
- Cemetery Lodge expenditure
- Differences between information on the financial comparison document and the separate summary for the Recreation Ground Kiosk
- The Town Clerk to advise Councillors where the expenditure on legal fees for the cemetery wall has been allocated.

### 169. Widening of the Path between The Mead to the Wardens' Workshop

The Committee considered the costs of widening the path between The Mead and the Wardens' Workshop and how the work should be funded.

**RESOLVED**

- That the contractors quotation of £1,650 is approved as the means of widening the path
- To recommend to Council the funding for the widening of the Path between The Mead to the Wardens' Workshop is as follows:

Amount	Budget heading
£250.00	561/14
£250.00	561/8
£500.00	560/11
£650	unallocated reserves

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### 170. Exclusion of the Press and Public

**RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public whilst agenda item 11 - Charges for fitness classes on the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground was discussed due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### 171. Charges for fitness classes on the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

The Committee received information about the attendance and charges for fitness classes between August and December and were asked to consider future charges.

Issues discussed included:

- Discrepancy in what the session organiser has reported and what people have seen happening on the Rec, advertising on Facebook etc
- The Town Council has tried to help with the set –up stage by offering a free trial period and reduced charges

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the session organiser be asked to emails the Town Council offices with attendance figures within 24hrs of each session,
- (ii) That the session organiser must use the agreed location and only at the times stated,
- (iii) That the Town Council will carry out spot checks
- (iv) That charges from January 2015 will be £2.00 per person up to maximum charge of £20.00

The meeting closed at 20:30 hrs

Chair's Initials & Date