

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 19.30 hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: F Albin, P Burton, J Fagan, J Fowler, V Keitch, A Shearman, J Sothern, S Storey, R Swann and T Walker

In Attendance

Officers: Mr R Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), and Mrs S Whitefield (Deputy Town Clerk)

4 members of the public and 1 member of the press attended the meeting.

OS62 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Drayton, Goodall, Kinder and Neave

OS63 Declarations of Interest

The declaration of interest detailed in the table below was made.

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
S Storey	7	OS68	Personal	Knows organisers of Party on the Park and is employed by one of the organisers	Voted

The Chair took the meeting out of session at 19.34 to allow Paul Bodgers to address the committee.

Paul Bodgers a resident of Ilminster, informed the committee of his proposal to hold an open air cinema on the recreation ground on Friday evenings. He distributed a brochure to councillors outlining his proposal; the benefits for Ilminster, the equipment and screening options. He would like the opportunity to run it for a minimum of 10 weeks and would like the opening night to coincide with Ilminster Midsummer Experience. The films would start at sunset and finish by 11.00pm.

The Chair recommended that Mr Bodgers contacts the Town Clerk to discuss the information and documents required to enable the Town Council to consider this proposal at a future Town Council Meeting.

The Chair took the meeting back into session at 19.45.

OS64 Minutes

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 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:

- Item 1 Advertising on Town Council Property. It was suggested that the Town Clerk draft a policy and it is on the agenda for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.

Ilminster Town Council Open Spaces Committee 16 February 2016 Minutes

- Item 8 Skate Park. - Ryan Doeller (Streetscape) and skate park users plan to attend the February Town Council meeting to share their ideas for the skate park

OS65 Police Report

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

OS66 Wardens Report

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

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Most of the work recommended in the play equipment safety inspection report has been completed other than work to the safety surfaces.
- New play equipment has been installed at Winterhay rec.
- Work to the steps at Herne Hill has started but due to weather conditions it has not been possible to prioritise the steps most in need of repair.
- Moss growth on tennis court, will be resprayed in April.
- Proposed purchase of a more robust petrol driven pressure washer to replace the existing electric one.
- A member of the public has asked for more play equipment at West Crescent recreation ground. The Chair requested that this item is included on a future agenda.
- Muddy footpaths particularly at the start and end of the area with the surface matting. Chippings offer a temporary improvement but quickly get trod in causing other problems.

OS67 Herne Hill Advisory Group

The Chair of the Herne Hill Advisory Group reported on the meeting held on 12 February 2016 and recommended that the revised Herne Hill Management Plan for 2016 – 2026 and the Woodland Management Plan be adopted.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- It is a comprehensive Plan
- Inconsistencies between the two documents i.e. dormice
- Whether there is evidence of dormice at Herne Hill
- Membership of the Herne Hill Advisory Group
- Local Nature Reserve designation
- Priorities for managing Herne Hill over next 5 years

It was suggested that the Chair of Open Spaces Committee and the Senior Open Spaces Warden discuss and agree the priorities for the next 5 years and draw up a fully costed plan to inform next year's budget setting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Ilminster Town Council adopt and implement the revised Herne Hill Management Plan for 2016 – 2026 and the Woodland Management Plan

OS68 Permission to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

The Committee considered the following requests to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground from Ilminster! Party on the Park.

- (i) Easter Egg Hunt Sunday 27 March 2016
- (ii) Party on the Park Sunday 28 August 2016

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

Ilminster Town Council Open Spaces Committee 16 February 2016 Minutes

- These popular community events have run successfully for a number of years.

RESOLVED to agree to the request from Ilminster! Party on the Park to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for the following events:

- (i) Easter Egg Hunt Sunday 27 March 2016
- (ii) Party on the Park Sunday 28 August 2016

OS69 Removal of Surplus Materials stored at the Cemetery

The Committee considered the disposal of surplus materials stored at the bottom part of the cemetery including, soil and rubble, metal girders, sheeting, ride-on-mower, logs, railings and building stone.

Discussions during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Preliminary enquiries suggest there will be a cost to dispose of these materials.
- Cllr Shearman has a licence to dispose of scrap metal and offered to dispose of the scrap metal.
- Cllrs Shearman and Burton offered to dispose of the wood.
- Volunteers to remove surplus materials

RESOLVED

- (i) Cllrs Shearman, Burton, Drayton and Swann in consultation with the Senior Open Spaces Warden and Town Clerk remove and dispose of the wood, ride-on-mower, metal girders and sheeting on a voluntary basis.
- (ii) Cllrs Shearman, Burton, Drayton and Swann in consultation with the Senior Open Spaces Warden and Town Clerk move the building stone and rubble to the location of the proposed Look Out Point on a voluntary basis.

The meeting closed at 20.15pm

Chair's Signature & Date