

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held online on Skype  
on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 19:30

**Present:**

Chair: Cllr M Gunn

Committee: Cllr V Higgins, Cllr F White, Cllr L Wilcock, Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr S Shepherd

**In Attendance:**

Councillor: Cllr P Burton

Officers: Mrs H White (Town Clerk), Mrs J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk) and Miss V Woodgate (Administration Officer)

**OS301 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Swann.

**OS302 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made regarding any items on the Agenda.

**OS303 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were considered.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

**OS304 Lift the Cycling Bye-law**

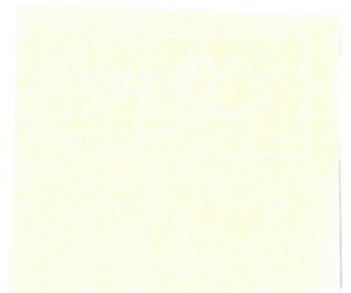
To consider removing or changing the bye-law related to cycling in open spaces in Ilminster.

The current bye-law covers cycling on Britten's Field Recreation Ground, Herne Hill, West Crescent Recreation Ground, Wharf Lane Recreation Ground and Winterhay Recreation Ground.

The Open Spaces Chair commented that she had spoken to many children who were cycling and asked them to dismount. That she had spoken to a member of the public who had to teach their child to cycle in the Stonemasons car park as there was no green space to use.

The proposal was not to lift on all areas. The proposal would be to lift on Wharf Lane Recreation Ground, West Crescent Recreation Ground and Winterhay Recreation Ground. Herne Hill is a Nature Reserve and it would not be appropriate, Britten's Field has an area called Cleaves Close which attracts much wildlife. Due to the steep nature of Britten's Field it would also be a health and safety concern.

A discussion was had regarding the bye-law as a whole document and due to the amount of time that has passed since the last review a suggestion was made that the bye-laws should be fully reviewed. The Open Spaces Chair suggested that maybe a sub-committee could be created to review the bye-laws and then a report prepared for a full Town Council meeting.



**RESOLVED** that the Chair of Open Spaces would liaise with the Councillors to see if she can set up a working party to review the bye-laws before presenting to the Town Council.

**OS305 Revised Cemetery Fees**

To review current fees for Ilminster cemetery. Referred from Open Spaces committee meeting held 12th November 2019 item no.266.

The cemetery fees had not been reviewed since 2017. A comparison document had been prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk showing other local towns and their charges. A discussion was had as to whether we could increase all charges by 10% but also to remove the £100 interment up to age 16 years and to adjust the searching the register to £35 per hour.

**RESOLVED** to increase the charges by 10% across the board apart from the Parishioner Internment up to age 16 years which will be removed with no charge attracted and the Searching registers for a period of not more than one year is amended to £35 per hour. The changes to be actioned from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

**OS306 The Purchase of the Barge**

To assess the financial impact going forward, and the impact of social distancing and cleaning the barge.

The Chair of Open Spaces explained that the PO for the barge was submitted in February. The PO was completed to hold the price. If we were to pull out at this stage we would have to bear the costs of two site visits by Timberplay, the production of architects plans at a minimum.

The Chair of Open Spaces had contacted Daisy Nook who already have a similar barge to one we are having installed. She wanted to check what precautions they were putting in place for Covid 19 and social distancing. They are not cleaning their barge. It is open to the elements and rain and sunshine help to kill the virus. Daisy Nook have signs to tell people to disinfect their children's hands and the equipment before and after use.

Work is still progressing behind the scenes. Amended plans are being finalised and trees are being crowned and lifted. Everything is going ahead.

The meeting closed at 20:36hrs

Chairs signature:

Date:

23/Sep/2020