

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster
on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 7.30pm

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M Gunn

Committee: V Higgins, R Swann, S Shepherd F White L Wilcock.

In Attendance:

Councillors: V Keitch and A Shearman

Officers: Mr A Barnett (Grounds Manager) Mr S Fletcher (Admin Officer)

Miss J Norris (Town Clerk) Miss V Woodgate (Admin Officer)

3 members of the public attended the meeting. 2 spoke prior to the meeting commencing.

Speaker 1

The speaker is a member of the Greener Ilminster who would like to carry out some tree planting around various sites in Ilminster. They are proposing to plant 45 orchard fruit trees at Winterhay Recreation Ground, Blackdown Recreation Ground and

The Clerk explained that Blackdown Recreation Ground is owned by South Somerset District Council and it was suggested the speaker writes to Cllr Val Keitch regarding this.

An item will go on a future Open Spaces Committee agenda to discuss possible planting at Winterhay and West Crescent.

Speaker 2

The speaker raised the issue of dog mess around Ilminster. A request was made for more notices to be put up asking people to pick up after their dogs.

The Committee Chair responded that the grounds maintenance team have put up more signs around the Recreation areas but it is felt it is unlikely that any more bins can be installed.

269 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors on the Committee were present.

270 Declarations of Interest

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

271 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 were considered.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

272 Action Plan

Consideration was given to the Office Action Plan relating to the Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised included:

- Awaiting a letter from the angling club regarding the dredging of the canal
- Marking out of the netball court. No one is currently running the netball club at present

- Memorial Gardens. Grounds Manager has done some work. Details of this will be available at the next meeting and will be put on the Agenda
- New information board-
- Request for new Bylaw Signs.

RESOLVED to note the Office Action Plan relating to the Open Spaces Committee

273 Police Report

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Police to report on any matters relevant to policing in Ilminster. There was no written police report nor were any items raised.

274 Financial Monitoring

There was no Financial Monitoring Report

275 Grounds Team Report

Consideration was given to a report on recent Grounds team work and work planned

Issues raised or discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Getting quotations regarding dredging the canal
- Willow tree removal. Will be done once ground is drier
- There has been some petty vandalism on Recreation Ground the new, accessible picnic bench has been moved
- Suggestion of putting a post on Facebook to ask for this behaviour to stop
- Letter to possibly go out to students at Swanmead School
- The use of CCTV to monitor. There is lots of Data protection issues around having cameras near children's play areas and toilets.

RESOLVED to note the report

276 Flags on Open Spaces Building

Consideration was given as to whether or not flags could be flown from the Open Spaces building on specific occasions.

. Issues raised or discussed during consideration of this agenda item included.

- Flags are flown on the office building for certain events already-such as Remembrance Day and there is a flag flown as part of the Ilminster Midsummer Experience
- Possibility to install a flagpole on the side of the Open Spaces workshop
- Flying the Union flag for specific events throughout the year.

RESOLVED To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- (I) that the Union Jack may be flown outside the Warden's Workshop on agreed dates
- (II) that Council approve a list of dates on which the Union Flag will be flown outside the Wardens Workshop

- (III) that a flagpole or flag holder is purchased and affixed to the Wardens Workshop

277 Metal Detecting

The current policy on metal detecting is now subject to its periodic review. The current policy states that metal detecting on Town Council owned and managed land is not permitted.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- (i) That the policy of not allowing metal detecting on Town Council owned and managed land, as previously adopted remains in place and
(II) That the metal detecting policy is reviewed in 3 years unless legislation or best practise requires an earlier review.

278 Wharf Lane Recreation Ground-Water Bottle Refill Station

Consideration was given to a report outlining options for purchasing a water bottle refill station for use on Wharf Lane recreation ground. Funding may be available towards the purchase and installation.

Issues raised or considered during discussion of this agenda item included

- Option 1 is a free standing water filler and concern was expressed that this could be vandalised.
- Option 2 is a more heavy duty filler than option 1. It would require batteries for it to work and concern was expressed that these would need to be constantly changed.
- Option 3 is a filler recessed into the wall of the toilet block. This would require a hole to be knocked into the toilet block. This was felt to be the better option as it would be less vulnerable to vandalism and is reasonably priced.

RESOLVED that Option 3 is the preferred option.

279 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2), for Agenda Item 11 Buggy Replacement due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted i.e. supplier names and purchase costs which may be subject to negotiation

The report relating to this item had been withheld from public circulation and deposit

280 Buggy Replacement

Consideration was given to a report outlining options for replacing the buggy used by the Grounds Maintenance team.

Issues raised or considered during discussion of the agenda item included

- The difference in price between the buggies tested
- Is it right for the Town Council to purchase the diesel vehicle as a state of climate emergency was recognised at the recent town council meeting?

- Research has not found an electric powered vehicle suitable for the use required by the Grounds Team.
- Buggy needs to be roadworthy and needs windscreen wipers i.e it must be a homologised vehicle.
- 5 or 6 different vehicles have been tried by the Grounds Maintenance team, including vehicles from local suppliers. A report on all the vehicles tested had been presented to a previous Open Spaces Committee.
- The need for regular safety checks and servicing was emphasised as this can help to prevent costly repairs.
- The Town Council may need to consider replacing vehicles at the end of or soon after the warranty period expires in order to avoid costly repairs in the future.
- The possibility of leasing a vehicle had been investigated but options were extremally limited.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that a Can-Am Traxter HD8 Pro is purchased

The meeting closed at 20.39hrs

