

Minutes of the **Open Spaces** held on **4<sup>th</sup> October 2022** at **20:07 hrs**  
held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

**Chair:** Cllr M Gunn

**Committee:** Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr D Paul,  
Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr L Wilcock

**Officers:** M Tredwin (Town Clerk), J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk and RFO), V  
Freeman (Administration Officer), K Adds (Grounds worker)

**In attendance:** 11 members of the public, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr P Burton

**22-0036-OS**

**Public Forum**

**Speaker 1**

Tom Vaughan on behalf of Ilminster Youth Football Club  
Mr Vaughan thanked the Chair for the invitation to speak at the meeting. He updated members that they, ITYFC are looking to work with Ilminster Town Council towards a medium to long term lease which will allow them to apply for external funding and working together would be of mutual benefit. They support the Neighbourhood Plan, particularly the carbon neutral proposals. They are a not-for-profit organisation and they apply for funding from the Football Foundation.

**Speaker 2**

Tim England on behalf of Ilminster Town Youth Football Club  
Mr England advised members that he grew up in the local area and moved away. When he returned to the area he realised that the local football set up was excellent. They would like to work closely with the Open Spaces committee and may have previously benefited from working together. They appreciated the suggestion of pitches at the Winterhay Park but the current space is not big enough, there are no toilets/changing facilities and there is no or limited car parking. It would be an administrative burden to advise officers of all matches in advance. Cup matches are released during the week so there is not enough time to give 10 days' notice, as requested.

Mr England suggested setting up a working group.

**Speaker 3**

Dan Haines spoke on behalf of Ilminster Town FC Senior team  
Mr Haines thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak. He advised members that the club were blindsided by the proposed conditions that have recently been sent to them and they would like a better understanding of where the conditions came from. The 3 sports clubs work well together and any issues are addressed. They are keen to work together on any issues but felt that some of the conditions are not appropriate.

#### **Speaker 4**

Sian Sainsbury on behalf of Ilminster Cricket Club

Ms Sainsbury advised members that open spaces should be shared spaces. The Cricket club are looking to refurbish their bar facilities and in order to obtain any grants they would need to have a long term lease in place.

**22-0037-OS**

#### **Apologies for absence**

Cllr S Shepherd – Personal reasons

**22-0038-OS**

#### **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Paul declared an interest in Agenda item 22-0044-OS Ilminster Sports Club Request to carry out drainage works on the main Football pitch on Britten's Field, and Agenda item 22-0045-OS Ilminster Sports Club Ltd request for a bonfire. Cllr Paul advised the Chair and Clerk that he will abstain on any vote relating to these Agenda items.

**22-0039-OS**

#### **Dispensations**

There were no dispensations requested or granted.

**22-0040-OS**

#### **Minutes**

Members resolved unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 as a correct record.

**Proposer** Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

**22-0041-OS**

#### **Open Spaces Team report**

Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.

The clerk updated members on the vandalism that occurred at the toilet block last Friday. Officers are exploring various avenues to try and stop it from happening again.

**22-0042-OS**

#### **Financial Monitoring Report**

Members **NOTED** the financial monitoring report.

Cllr Hamilton asked if the recent vandalism will result in the vandalism budget being exceeded, the RFO was unable to provide an answer at this time as it is dependant on whether the doors are replaced or repaired.

Members were advised that the Town Council were under no obligation to provide public toilets, other Town Councils in the area have closed their public toilets.

Members were advised that the Recreation Manager will be undertaking training to be able to complete the playground safety checks in house, therefore making a saving in that area of the budget and it could become a possible future income stream.

**22-0043-OS**

#### **Licensing 2023/2024**

Members discussed ways forward regarding the Licences for 2023/2024. Discussions included the reconstituting of the Recreation Ground Users Group (RGUG). The Chair explained that the Rec Users Group was a working group whose membership were made up of Councillors, the Chair and Vice Chair of Open Spaces, members of the local sports clubs,

families, dog walkers and other users of the recreation ground, and the leases should not be rushed into.

**A** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the Rec Users Group be reconstituted.

**Proposer** Cllr Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

**B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to defer this agenda item until the Rec Users Group have met and brought their proposals to the next Open Spaces meeting due to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

**22-0044-OS**

**Ilminster Sports Club Request to carry out drainage works on the main Football pitch on Britten's Field**

Members discussed the proposal. Discussions included that the ditch has previously not been well maintained. Much of Ilminster has a Victorian Sewage network, and whether the work will have an impact on flooding on the path.

Members **RESOLVED** by 6 votes for and 1 abstention to approve the drainage works outlined by the ISCL to improve the drainage on Britten's Field

**Proposer** Cllr Wilcock **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

**22-0045-OS**

**Ilminster Sports Club Ltd request for a bonfire**

Members discussed ISCL's application to hold a bonfire and fireworks event. Discussions included the location of the bonfire, whether to charge a deposit and the condition of the field after previous events.

ISCL were happy that the field had been reinstated to a satisfactory standard, Officers had raised some concerns over the way the field was left. At the end of the item a representative of the Cricket Club advised members that they were unhappy with the condition of the field and felt it was not in a satisfactory or safe condition.

**A** Members **RESOLVED** by 6 votes for and 1 abstention to permit ISC Ltd to hold a bonfire and fireworks event on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Wilcock

**B** Members **RESOLVED** by 6 votes for and 1 abstention to request a £500 deposit pending the ground being reinstated to a satisfactory standard agreed by the Recreation Manager, Chair/Vice Chair of Open Spaces and a representative of ISC Ltd.

**Proposer** Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

**22-0046-OS**

**Recreation Ground litter pick station and signs**

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the installation of litter pick stations and signs at the Recreation Ground and Britten's Field.

**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor



**22-0047-OS**

**Memorial tree**

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the replacement of a memorial tree at Cleaves Close/Britten's Field and for officers to be delegated responsibility to meet with relatives to implement the replacement.

**Proposer** Cllr Wilcock **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

**22-0048-OS**

**Contract for plants**

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to move this item to Exempt Business.

**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Wilcock  
See Minute item 22-0050-OS

**22-0049-OS**

**Exempt Business**

*That in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advised in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded while members consider this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Jenner-Hurford

**22-0050-OS**

**Contract for plants**

Members discussed the quotes to supply plants for the town's planters and troughs. Discussions included whether to look at a one or three year contract due to the rise in inflation.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to enter a contract with supplier 3 on the report to supply plants for the next 3 years starting in 2023/24 as per their quote.

**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Paul

Meeting ended at 21.29

