

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held on **6th August 2024 at 19:54**
held at the **Ilminster Arts Centre, The Meeting House, Ilminster, TA19 0AN**

Chair: Cllr B Jenner-Hurford

Committee: Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr J Morris, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr D Paul, Cllr L Taylor

Officers: J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO), V Freeman (Administration Officer), J Fontana (Open Spaces Manager)

In attendance: Cllr P Sellers, Cllr N Tinson, Cllr I MacKillop, Cllr M James
There were no members of the public in attendance.

24-0023-OS Public Forum
There were no members of the public present.

24-0024-OS Apologies for absence
Cllr M Gunn
Cllr S Shepherd
The Deputy Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided. [OBJ]

24-0025-OS Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest made.

24-0026-OS Dispensations
There were no dispensations requested or granted.

24-0027-OS Minutes
Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024 as a correct record.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Jenner-Hurford

24-0028-OS Minutes
Members **NOTED** the Minutes of the Herne Hill Users Group held on 2nd August 2024.

Members were reminded that Herne Hill is a managed wood and not a wild wood therefore the trees will need to be thinned out in line with the Herne Hill Management Plan.

Members **NOTED** the maintenance actions below,

As per the Herne Hill Management Plan, the Countryside Manager is looking to thin out the trees to let the light in and improve wildlife habitat.

The Open Spaces team would like to use the wood from the felled trees above to make benches to put around Herne Hill. They would also like to make a percussion instrument from the felled wood.

The Countryside Manager would like to open up the viewpoints by cutting back overhanging branches/brambles

24-0029-OS

Open Spaces Team report

Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.
Members thanked the Open Spaces Manager and the team for all their hard work.

24-0030-OS

Finance Report

Members **NOTED** the report.

24-0031-OS

Purchase a Telescopic Pole Pruner

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to purchase a Stihl Telescopic Pole Pruner HTA135 and two 300S batteries.

Proposer Cllr Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

24-0032-OS

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to purchase a bag of poppy seeds to be spread along the bank at the bottom of the cemetery.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

24-0033-OS

Herne Hill Nature Reserve and Wildflower Meadow Maintenance.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to choose a suitable contractor to cut, bale and remove the cuttings from the wildflower meadow and Cleeves Close.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to hire the Irus for the work on Herne Hill.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

24-0034-OS

Removal of concrete and the hire of a concrete crusher

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to remove the remains of the concrete benches on the grandstand pitch.

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

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to hire a concrete crusher and operator to crush the concrete to be used for a path on Herne Hill.

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

24-0035-OS

Somerset Council Waste Collection from Public Bins

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to respond to Somerset Council's request and report the two bins that are on Town Council land and to confirm what the situation will be for the future of all of the other bins around Ilminster that are not on Town Council land.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

Meeting ended at 20:58

