

# ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 21 February, 2012 at 7.45 p.m.

## **Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr R Swann

**Councillors:** Cllr P Burton, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr S Sainsbury, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern, and Cllr L Vijeh.

**Non Councillors:** Mr T Goverd and Mrs H Wells

**Officers:** Mrs R Hope, Mr A Jones, Miss N McIntosh, Mrs J Thorne

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Taylor and Whaites

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Pallister declared a personal interest in Item 8 Sports club licence as Chair of the Sports Club.

### **3. Herne Hill**

#### **(a) Work Programme**

The Open Spaces Warden reported that a walnut tree had been planted on the Hill that had been donated by a member of the public. Hedge laying on the outer hedges of the hill had begun. Where needed trees had been cut and branches lifted and chippings spread on the pathways. The five conifers had been cut down, stacked and the chippings also spread on pathways.

Cllr Miller commented that one of the trees close to where the conifers had been removed was being choked by ivy. The Warden replied he was aware of this and it had been earmarked to be done.

#### **(b) Management Plan Review**

Mr Goverd commented that there was a noticeable change in the water shed on the hill. The bramble on the definitive footpath leading to Donyatt needed to be kept under control and the bottom risers of the steps need replacing.

The three trees that had come down on the ridge had been suffering from butt rot and the lime on the bottom path had weeping canker. The Wardens were complimented on the hedging at the bottom of the hill. When coppicing, consideration should be given as to whether to use the same rotation for each set of hazels.

Mrs Wells reported they had produced a tentative list of lichens on the hill and they would continue to monitor the species on the hill. She recommended that trees to be planted on the hill should come from native stock.

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Cllr Lawson asked if it would be prudent to plant further Scotts pine on the hill. It was commented that these might not so well and Cllr Miller said global warming was likely to adversely affect Scots Pine.

Mr Goverd reported that the badger sett notice on the Donyatt side of the hill needs repairing.

Mrs Wells reported that they hoped to survey the mammals on the hill this summer.

The Clerk asked if the Deputy Clerk and Open Spaces Warden could produce management plan review of the Hill incorporating the views of our local experts. This would be brought back to the committee in due course. The committee agreed to this proposal.

#### **4. Minutes of the Previous Open Spaces Committee Meeting**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on the 24 January 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

##### **(a) MUGA and Skatepark**

The Clerk reported that the grant form had changed to incorporate 106 money. She was due to meet with Adrian Moore and Cllr Swann to complete the form and expected to receive the award letter and form from SSDC by the end of next week.

Cllr Miller asked what was the expected shortfall in the funding. The Clerk replied upto £15,000 could be the shortfall, however the Clark Foundation had been approached to support the project and it was expected that Yarlinton Homes, the Police Trust, Ilminster Lions and Streetspace would be all be contacted in due course. Concern was expressed at the delay, the committee asked that the process could be completed as quickly as possible.

##### **(b) Shed security**

The Clerk reported that they had delayed the purchase of the security equipment. This was due to the insurance company wishing to visit the site and offer advice.

##### **(c) Cemetery**

The Clerk reported that there was now a hole in the Cemetery wall and they were in the process of contacting the contractors for the removal of the tree and the soil.

#### **6. Warden's Report**

The Open Spaces Warden reported that both Wardens had completed an ATV Course. The Assistant Open Spaces Warden had also taken part in brushcutter and strimmer course. Two new bins have been installed one outside Barclays Bank and one outside McColls, the broken concrete planter on Strawberry Bank had now been removed along with The Battle of Sedgemoor board, there had been minor repairs to the tennis courts fencing and a replacement net and post had been put in place. Work had been carried out by contractors on the hedges of Britten's Field and West Crescent. Grass cutting to the Recreation Ground and the play areas was underway and was on-going.

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The Warden also said the Playsmart Rep has visited to look at the zip wire safety surfacing and was hoping to carry out the work at the start of March. He was also able to obtain some second-hand fencing from Eagle Plant which was used in front of the football stadium and also when working at the toddlers play area. Work at the Cemetery was still on-going, and the new entrance way to the Cemetery was complete and the gate had been fitted.

### 7. Street Furniture

The Clerk asked the Committee to consider the purchase of various items of street furniture. The intention was that those items in the worst condition would be replaced first.

#### (a) Dog bins

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that ten dog bins should be purchased at a total cost of £1250.

#### (b) Seats

The Warden commented that it was intended that the metal seats in various positions around the town would be brought onto the Recreation Ground. However there were a number of benches which needed replacing. A new bench cost £310 each but the costing did not include the cement required on the base of each seat.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that twelve seats should be purchased at a total cost of £3720.

#### (c) Litter bins

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that seven litter bins should be purchased at a total cost of £2450.

### 8. Sports Club

Cllr Pallister left the meeting during discussion of item (a)

#### (a) Licences

Cllr Swann reported that he along with Cllrs Goodall, Pallister and Shepherd had met to review the licences held between the Town Council and other groups within the town. There had been a discussion regarding the trustees of the IEF. Cllr Goodall was seeking legal advice to combine the separate agreements of the Pavilion, Cricket Club store and nets. The Sports Club licence needed to be brought up to date. Cllr Pallister was to ask those involved with the Sports Club to meet and work at a resolution.

Cllr Miller asked if any progress had been made by the football club on their proposed plans.

#### (b) State of ground

The Clerk reported that she had sent the Football Club and Youth Football Club a letter stating the Council's concern on the current condition of the pitches. The committee discussed the response to the letter and the issues it had raised concluding that the Football Club should be encouraged to look at the possibility of resting the top pitch. The Clerk would write to the clubs about this.

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## 9. Oil tank

The Committee was presented with copies of quotes for the Oil Tank and Compound and was asked to make a decision whether to go ahead with the purchase, which is to be located by the wardens shed on the Recreation ground. It was decided that 2.1m high fencing should be sufficient and it was felt an alarm would be needed. After much discussion it was concluded that more research was needed and the information would be presented to the next committee.

## 10. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

- (a) The Town Clerk reported Rachel the Admin Manager and the Assistant Warden had been working together to come up with a list of suggested jubilee trees. The Admin Manager had also put together a letter to be sent to community groups within the town and the Committee agreed with this.
- (b) A letter from kellawayk9training had been received about her Dog training course. The Committee were happy with her request.
- (c) The Clerk alerted the committee of an email she had received from Swanmead School requesting use of the recreation ground on 8<sup>th</sup> March for a middle schools cross country event and on 22<sup>nd</sup> March for an inter school orienteering competition. This was approved.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Signature

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Date