

**ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster on Tuesday 23rd July 2013 at 19:30hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr C Goodall

Councillors: Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman,
Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern, Cllr S Storey, Cllr R Swann, Cllr E J Taylor

In Attendance

Officers: Mr Tony Jones (Open Spaces Warden), Miss N McIntosh (Administrative Assistant)
Miss J Norris (Town Clerk), Mrs M Shelley, (Deputy Town Clerk)

Members of the Public

Eleven members of the public attended this meeting.

30. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Austin, Burton and Vijeh

31. Declarations of Interest

The declarations of Interest given in the table below were made.

Name	Minute No	Agenda Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest
Cllr J Pallister	33	4	Personal	Member of the Cricket & Sports Club
Cllr A Shearman	32	3	Personal	Part time SCC
Cllr S Shepherd	33	4	Personal	Cricket Club
Cllr S Storey	33	4	Personal	Town Football Club member

32. Application to Somerset County Council for Flood Alleviation Grant

The Councillors were asked by the Chair of Open Spaces to consider working with residents to design a flood alleviation project and applying to Somerset County Council for a joint flood alleviation grant for its implementation.

Mr Rafell, was invited by the Chair to address the meeting. He reported that a group called the "West Ilminster Flood Alleviation Group" has been formed. The members of this group have been affected by flooding, especially the area of Holway House Park & Station Road. Their first project is to submit a grant application to assist with the flooding problem affecting their properties and they are willing to do this jointly with the Town Council.

The Clerk informed the Committee that Somerset County Council had indicated outline applications submitted by Friday 26th July 2013 could have detail added at a later date. The Clerk expressed that she felt it was very important to work with residents to put in place measures to prevent flooding and reported that the MP David Laws was also very supportive.

The Mayor supported the idea of working together with local residents and felt it was important to secure any available money.

Chair's initials

Iminster Town Council

RESOLVED that a joint grant application from the Town Council and local residents be submitted to Somerset County Council

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- (i) that the Town Council contributes 20% of the cost of the works to a maximum amount of £5,000
- (ii) that the expenditure is taken from Reserves
- (iii) that the Council uses its powers under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make the agreed expenditure

33. Open Spaces Review

The Town Clerk and the Community Health and Leisure Manager from South Somerset District Council asked the committee to consider the information collected from the consultation with stakeholders and the public and make recommendations to Council on the way forward.

The Chair invited any members of the public present to address the Committee on the subject of the open spaces review. Mr Sainsbury spoke on behalf of the Cricket Club and said that they were keen to improve their facilities and stressed the importance of the any consultation being conducted via the Cricket club Committee rather than with any individual cricket club member.

The Clerk reported on the Open Spaces consultation, the analysis showed a minimum 4% return rate. The main feedback from the local community was more benches and play equipment were needed.

The Clerk suggested that when a preferred layout had been determined further consultation would be necessary.

South Somerset District Council's (SSDC) Community Health & Leisure Manager explained the developer capital contributions money, known as "106 money" that is currently being held by SSDC and available for use in Iminster. SSDC are willing to assist and advise with the Open Spaces Review but it is for the Town Council to lead the review.

The Town Council will need to apply for the use of the 106 money and in order for an application to be successful any application will need to demonstrate how it will assist the Town Council to move towards its vision for the open spaces. Therefore having a "master plan" which shows what the Council is intending to achieve over a period of time is essential.

The Committee were also advised that the 106 money can be used as a lever to help secure additional capital funding.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (i) That the Terms of Reference for the Open Spaces Review Group be amended as shown on Appendix A to these minutes
- (ii) That the Town Council obtains professional advice to assist with the design of a master plan for the Wharf Lane Recreation Area and Britten's Field and
- (iii) That the Council approves the brief to be provided to potential advisors
- (iv) that an application is made to South Somerset District Council to fund the cost of the professional advice from S106 monies, which has provisionally been allocated for use in Iminster.

Chair's initials

Iminster Town Council

34. Market Town Investment Group

The Committee considered the Town Council's application for a grant from the "portas pot" for planters at various locations in the town and the future implications of a successful bid.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (i) That the Council makes a contribution to the Portas Project Proposal (based on the themes of Town Image and Community Facelift) and recognises that such contributions can be work in kind
- (ii) That the Town Council develops a sponsorship policy
- (iii) That the Town Council actively seeks sponsorship from businesses in the town
- (iv) That the Town Council recognises the proposal will require ongoing resources to be provided e.g. labour and finance.

The meeting closed at 21:30 hours

Chair's Signature and Date