

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 24 January, 2012 at 7.43 p.m.

Present

Chairman: Cllr R Swann

Councillors: Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr S Maylor, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr S Sainsbury, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr J Sothern, and Cllr E J Taylor.

Officers: Mrs R Hope, Mr A Jones, Mrs M Shelley, Mrs J Thorne

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Shepherd, Vijeh and Whaites

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Open Spaces Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on the 18th October be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Warden's Report

The Open Spaces Warden reported approximately 2000 daffodil bulbs have been planted around the Recreation Ground with a little help from Sunny Ile pre school. Some of the benches were painted at the same time.

The football stadium seating had been removed with some of the wood being salvaged for future use. The Warden asked that a working party could be formed to review licences and practices between the Council and the Sports Clubs. It was agreed that Cllrs Pallister, Shepherd and Swann, the Deputy Town Clerk and a Warden should make up the working party.

The Warden thanked those who had helped clear the canal bank and with the removal of the five conifers. Chippings from the canal are now on pathways on the hill. The tree surgeon had also removed a branch off the silver birch at the cemetery and the trees on the Recreation Ground that had been scheduled for removal. The work experience employee had continued to volunteer and was proving helpful.

The replacement chainsaws had arrived. In the cemetery graves were being levelled as required, the yews and some of the shrubs had been trimmed.

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Whilst the play area was fenced off to replace the wet pour surfaces, the swings and seesaw were repaired and repainted. A seal on the mule gearbox was also replaced by Loxtons. New bulbs had been fitted in the toilet block and the handwash units had been serviced. The Police have arrested two youths for breaking into the toilet.

Cllr Pallister asked what was happening with the widening of the surface leading up to the Wardens shed.

Cllr Swann asked if a letter of thanks could go to our young volunteer.

6. Wardens shed

(a) Vehicle logo

It was agreed to defer this discussion until a decision regarding the Council logo had been reached

(b) Vehicle immobiliser

The price for the recommended agricultural vehicle immobilizer was in the region of £350 which members felt this was too expensive. Cllr Shearman said he could help in finding a cheaper alternative.

(c) Shed security

Cllr Swann reported that ensuring all doors and windows were locked was sufficient security for the insurance company. The committee was presented with a list of items that could be included in the security system.

It was resolved that dusk to dawn lights, PIRS, deadlocks and hinge bolts should be purchased to enhance the security on the wardens shed, costings would be obtained.

7. Diesel tank and compound

Cllr Swann commented that this item was to be deferred pending further investigation.

8. Flail

Details of the proposal to purchase a new flail had been circulated to the committee. The benefits of the machine had already been demonstrated and it was likely to save a lot of time. The flail could also be used to cut both amenity grass and rough bramble and bracken. The AEBI and chipper had already been part exchanged and the Council had a credit amount that could be used towards the purchase of new equipment.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the purchase a Muthing MUE 2.00m flail.

9. Safety surfacing under zip wire

Following discussion of the four options detailed

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that £1150 grass matting should be purchased

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10. Cemetery

Following discussion of the options detailed and ascertaining which tree is to be felled.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the quote of £2825.50 for the removal of earth, grading to a gentle slope, removing the tree stump, putting in a drain and backfilling and spreading the soil on adjacent field.

11. Canal

Cllr Swann reported that a large area of the canal bank had been cleared. The timbers from the conifers that had been felled on the hill would be used to secure the eroded banks on the canal as advised by our local expert. It was hoped that the blue lias wall could also be renovated.

12. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

(a) MTIG grant

Cllr Goodall asked the committee if they would agree in principle to support a grant application to MTIG, to carry out a de-cluttering exercise of road signs in the towns. The committee agreed.

(b) Training

The Open Spaces Wardens were to be trained for driving on slopes, the assistant Open Spaces Warden was also to attend a brushcutting course.

(c) Garden Competitions

The committee agreed that the competitions should run again with the following amendments, each competition will have a Jubilee theme, Swanmead would be invited to compete and the judging would be by a 'secret judge', judging front gardens only.

(d) Toilet railings

The clerk reported that it had been possible to obtain only one quote for altering the railings outside the toilet block. It was intended to fund the work through the toilet block refurbishment grant.

(e) Children's Centre

It was agreed that the new representative should be Cllr Sainsbury

(f) Christmas Tree Festival

Acknowledgment had been received from Make a wish Foundation for the monies raised.

(g) Details of the SSDC draft core strategy meetings would be emailed to Councillors

(h) Details of a Better Lives with Less event would be emailed to Councillors

(i) The Clerk thanked Councillors who had helped with the tree work and delivering the newsletter

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The meeting closed at 8.48pm

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Signature

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Date