

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 19.30 hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: P Burton, R Drayton, J Fagan, C Goodall, D Kinder, R Neave, A Shearman, S Storey, R Swann and T Walker

In Attendance

Officers: Mr R Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk) and Mrs S Whitefield (Deputy Town Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting.

OS54 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Albin, Fowler, Keitch and Sothem.

OS55 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made regarding any items on the agenda.

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RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record
- (ii) To note the action list relating to the Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised during consideration of the action list included:

- Item 2 Surface matting outside Wardens' Workshop – the company who supplied the grass matting for the new path near the badger sett have been contacted and will be visiting the site to give advice – date is to be confirmed.
- Item 5 Natural/wildlife encouragement areas - update on progress. The size of site is to be determined to obtain a quotation for seeding.
- Item 8 Herne Hill Management Plan – currently being updated by Temporary Open Spaces Warden and put into a nationally recognised format. A meeting of the Herne Hill Advisory Group has been arranged early February.
- Removal of metal balance beam and safety surfaces – update on progress – the South Somerset District Council Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer has met with members of the Play & Paths sub group and is drawing a master plan for the play area in the Wharf Lane Rec

OS57 Police Report

There was no police report and no policing matters were raised or reported.

OS58 Wardens Report

The report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster was considered.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Responsibility for maintaining unregistered land next to roads and whether this should be considered at a future Planning, Highways and Transport Committee Meeting.
- The effectiveness of spraying the tennis courts. It takes a number of weeks for the spray to work fully but is very likely to need repeating. Moss growth had built up over a longer period than usual, because until recently no member of staff held a spraying certificate and this service was being bought in.

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- How the work on the various steps on Herne Hill would be being prioritised and undertaken when the ground conditions improve.
- The amount of time being spent by the Open Spaces Team unblocking the grid on the canal; it was suggested that the Town Clerk send a letter to the Angling Club asking them to clear the grid at least once a week.

OS59 Request from Iminster Entertainments Society to place advertisements on Tennis Court fencing.

The committee considered a request from Iminster Entertainments Society to advertise on the fencing surrounding the tennis courts.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Developing a policy for advertising on Town Council property and whether to charge for this.
- Need to consult with Iminster Educational Foundation.

RESOLVED to defer a decision to enable a policy to be drafted for consideration at a future meeting

OS60 Request from Marshall Herbert's Funfairs

The committee considered a request from Marshall Herbert's Funfairs to use the Recreation Ground during 2016 arriving on Sunday 26 June, leaving on Sunday 3 July and during Carnival week arriving on Sunday 25 September, leaving Sunday 2 October.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

RESOLVED to agree to the request from Marshall Herbert's Funfairs to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground 26 June – 3 July 2016 and 25 September - 2 October 2016.

OS61 Cemetery

The Committee considered the production of an integrated cemetery plan to comply with Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (Article 9 Plan and record of cemetery) and the location and availability of future cremation and burial plots.

Discussions during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Setting up small sub group to investigate land availability suitable for cemetery use
- Amount of un sold burial space remaining
- Whether to continue selling burial and cremation plots in advance
- A communication strategy, including media releases to enable local people to understand the situation and what steps were being taken to consider future requirements
- Whether to continue to allow non-parishioners to be interred and how long a former Iminster parishioner would need to live away to be considered a non-parishioner bearing in mind that some parishioners may have to move from the town for health reasons
- Costs of purchasing land and associated costs to change its use for cemetery purposes.

RESOLVED

- (i) To form a cemetery sub group with a broad remit to investigate the availability and suitability of land for cemetery use, including land already owned by the Town Council.

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- (ii) The cemetery sub group is to comprise of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Open Spaces, Cllrs Drayton, Shearman (if available), Storey and Swann.
- (iii) To obtain quotations
 - to produce an integrated cemetery plan to comply with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 and
 - to establish how much burial land remains available and its suitability for use for burials and / or cremation plots.

Note: A recorded vote was taken on (i) and (iii) above and the recorded vote sheets are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to these minutes

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to stop selling burial and cremation plots in advance.

RESOLVED

- (i) to use the unsold plots in existing Sections C2 and B2 for both cremation plots and burial plots provided that for the latter it can be established the ground composition and topography is suitable for burials
- (ii) to use burial plots in the area most recently designated as S (previously parts of areas designated B & C) from a centre line taken from the store shed working outwards, each occasion to be risk assessed.

The meeting closed at 20.53hrs



Recorded Vote Sheet			
Date: 26/1/16			
Meeting: Open			
Vote taken on having a meeting sub group broad remit, to look at land availability			
	For	Against	Abstain
Albin, Fred	Absent		
Burton, Philip	✓		
Drayton, Rob	✓		
Fagan, John	✓		
Fowler, Julie	Absent		
Goodall, Carol	✓		
Keitch, Val	Absent		
Kinder, Don			✓
Neave, Rose	✓		
Shearman, Andrew	✓		
Shepherd, Stuart	✓		
Sothorn, Jo	Absent		
Storey, Sophie	✓		
Swann, Roger	✓		
Walker, Tony	✓		



Recorded Vote Sheet			
Date: 26/1/14			
Meeting: Open Spaces Committee			
Vote taken on: Get Quotations for survey to meet legal requirements. & land remains available.			
	For	Against	Abstain
Albin, Fred		Apologies	
Burton, Philip	✓		
Drayton, Rob	✓		
Fagan, John	✓		
Fowler, Julie		Apologies.	
Goodall, Carol	✓		
Keitch, Val		Apologies	
Kinder, Don	✓		
Neave, Rose	✓		
Shearman, Andrew	✓		
Shepherd, Stuart	✓		
Sothorn, Jo		Apologies	
Storey, Sophie	✓		
Swann, Roger	✓		
Walker, Tony	✓		