

**ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 27th January 2015 at 19:30hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr C Goodall

Councillors: Cllr, S Austin, Cllr P Burton, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr V Higgins, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr R Neave, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Storey and Cllr E J Taylor.

In Attendance

Officers: Mr A Jones (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

No members of the public attended this meeting.

172. Suspension of Standing Orders

The Committee were asked to suspend standing order 1m, which relates to photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings as a new legislation allows members of the public the right to record a meeting.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 1m.

173. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shepherd, Sothern and Swann

174. Declarations of Interest.

A Shearman – item 7 personal classic car member & marshall at the event,
J Pallister – item 9 personal, involved with cricket club

175. Minutes.

RESOLVED

(i) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on **9th December 2014** as a correct record.

(ii) To note the action list relating to the Open Spaces committee

Items raised by the committee included the following:

- Concerns that minute 168 - financial comparison - does not provide sufficient detail of the discussion at the meeting
- Long grass on slope from Britten's Field towards Herne Hill has attracted wildlife which owls hunt for food
- Cemetery wall – progress on the planned work this year has been slower than hoped due to the contractor's illness; some work may be needed in 15/16.

176. 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:

- 4 new benches have been constructed and stained, 3 are for Britten's Field and 1 for Winterhay Rec
- The picnic bench at the top of Herne Hill was badly vandalised, it has now been repaired and placed in the Rec by the Kiosk
- The Chair asked that her thanks be passed on for putting wood chippings down on the slippery area at West Crescent

Chair's Initials

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- Councillors would like to know when volunteers will be working at the Cemetery so that they can also come and help tend neglected graves
- Disposal of old railings from cemetery and the need to identify potential disposal methods / purchasers
- The Senior Open Spaces Warden was asked the routine / frequency for mowing the amenity land and the sports pitches; the amenity areas are generally cut 1 a week in the summer and the cricket outfield twice a week; the Committee Vice-Chair explained that for cricket the grass needs to be kept short all the time otherwise it doesn't play well; All sports have a set height for grass length 35mm for football 25mm for cricket to 15mm for cricket to enable the ball to run more swiftly. The new trailed mower means that grass can be left longer between cuts as combinations of long or wet grass do not impact upon performance which used to happen with the gang mower it is therefore possible that the advice that amenity areas need only be cut once every two weeks could be implemented.

177. Police Report

No police representatives attended the meeting.

178. Permission to use the Recreation Ground

The Committee were asked to consider granting permission for Ilminster Midsummer Experience to use the Recreation Ground June 2015.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- licence arrangements for the event
- the limited information provided on the proposed activities
- that the kiosk would be open

RESOLVED

- (i) That the principle of allowing IMEx to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground is agreed providing they meet the caveats detailed in (ii) and (iii) below and the following criteria:
 - licence terms are checked and confirmed with South Somerset District Council
 - a formal presentation is given to the Committee which includes a plan / layout and schedule of activities
- (ii) that the permission to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground is subject to the ground being in a suitable condition
- (iii) that kiosk will be open

179. All Human Circus Visit

It was reported to Committee that a request has been submitted by the 'All human Circus' for the use the Recreation Ground 15th – 17th June 2015.

Items discussed during consideration of the item included:

- the wish to encourage the circus to visit Ilminster
- the number of requests that have been received to use the Recreation Ground in June and July
- the amount of space the circus will require
- the length of time it will take the circus to set up
- the number and type of vehicles that will need access to the site

Chair's Initials

RESOLVED

- (i) that the circus cannot use Britten's Field

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- (ii) to defer making a decision about the use of the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground until the Committee have the following information:
- the number and type of vehicles that will need access to the site
 - a sketch plan of the site layout
 - confirmation of what utilities will be needed
 - arrival and departure dates and times
 - dates that the circus will be performing
 - the time it takes to set up the attraction

180. Area Outside the Wardens Workshop and Cricket Store

The Committee considered the specification provided by the Councillor Working Group for work to the entrances to the Warden's Workshop and Cricket Store with a view to seeking quotations for the work.

Items discussed during consideration of the item included:

- Impact of Rec review on the Wardens' workshop and the immediate vicinity
- The proposed surfacing work is not part of the project to widen the path between The Mead and the Warden's Workshop
- The 15/16 budget has now been agreed and no provision was made for the surfacing work

RESOLVED

- (i) to defer any decision on surfacing outside the Wardens' Workshop and the cricket store so that the work can be considered as the part of the Rec Review
- (ii) that the surfacing is considered as a requirement for the Warden's Workshop and the associated area.

The meeting closed at 20:28 hrs

Chair's Signature & Date