

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 27 March, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Chairman: Cllr J Pallister

Councillors: Cllr S Austin, Cllr P Burton, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr S Sainsbury, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern, and Cllr E Taylor.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Swann, L Vijeh and P Whaites

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Pallister, Sainsbury and Shepherd declared a personal interest in Item 11 Cricket Club Score box.

Cllrs Goodall, Lawson and Taylor declared a personal interest in Item 13 (d) Ilminster Forum

3. Minutes of the Previous Open Spaces Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on the 21 February 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 9 – Oil tank

Cllr Shearman asked if any progress had been made. The Clerk replied they were carrying out the research

5. Warden's Report

The Open Spaces Warden reported that they had been very busy maintaining the grass areas, tidying up fallen trees and branches on the hill, taking down some of the football posts on the pitches, staining several benches and had been carrying out general maintenance to some of the play equipment. He also reported that the zip wire safety surface was due to be fitted the following day.

The Warden notified Councillors that the tree in the Cemetery had now been removed and branches chipped, and the Wardens were now able to proceed with the removal of the mud. The Wardens had been cutting wood on the canal bank for the Working Party and had to bring in a climber to complete work which included tree felling and spreading of chippings on pathways. The new flail had been collected from Loxston's.

The Warden reported he had attended a meeting with the Lion's Club Representative regarding trees they wish to donate and the location which they will be placed. He had suggested to them that they could be placed on the bank on the Incline. The Lions had been asked if they would be able to obtain more trees and therefore call it the Lions Copse, they

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were to discuss this proposal at the their next meeting in April. The Warden had also attended a meeting for the MUGA and Skate Park regarding lighting, ground works and Skate Park design.

Councillor's Goodall and Taylor arrived at 7:35pm.

6. Cemetery

- a) Soil – The Clerk reported that Contractors were due to start work on the 16th April weather depending.
- b) Conifer tree – The Warden presented Councillors with photographs of the conifer tree situated in the Cemetery which was causing concern. The Warden asked to seek the advice of the tree officer, Philip Poulton or the tree climber as to the condition of the tree and to remove the tree should this be the received opinion. Councillors agreed to the Wardens proposal.

7. MUGA and Skate Park

A written report from the Clerk was circulated before the meeting detailing the proposed lighting and the strategies for obtaining grant funding for the project. The Clerk commented that she had met with Zoe Harris District Council Community Regeneration Officer and Richard Passmore of StreetSpace. The community grant would be discussed at the next Area West meeting on April 18th, should the application be successful, their advice was to proceed with the Skate Park as this would encourage the youngster involved and aid in funding raising for the MUGA. Zoe Harris and Richard Passmore were both seeking additional funding for the project.

Cllr Taylor asked if it was possible to have a detailed financial breakdown of the project. Cllr Miller asked if advice had been sought on the spread of light from the proposed lighting. The Clerk replied that lux levels and lighting spread had been taken into account and that the lights would be pointing towards the courts.

8. Canal

A written report by Deputy Mayor Swann was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Shearman raised concerns regarding the badger set close to the canal.

9. Herne Hill Walkabout

It was agreed that the Herne Hill Walkabout should be on 24th April at 6:30pm. Councillors should meet at the Incline at the Ridge path gate.

10. Summer Competitions

- a) Scarecrow Competition –Judging will take place on the 8th June with Cllr's Lawson, Sainsbury and Swann.
- b) Greenfyld Competition – Judging will take place on the 16th July with Cllr's Austin, Goodall and Swann.

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- c) Swanmead Competition – Judging will take place on the 12th July and the school assembly on the 13th July at 2pm with judges Cllr Goodall, Pallister and Sothern.
- d) Floral Competition – It was agreed this year that the Floral Competition would be in two categories commercial and residential. Judging would be of gardens that could be seen from the pavements. This year there will be no need for entries, Councillors would nominate the best gardens for the Judge who have yet to be appointed to determine the winners.

Councillor Sainsbury suggested the entries be anonymous when judging the school competitions.

11. Cricket Club Score box

A proposal for a new Cricket Club Score box was put forward to Councillors. Cllr Shepherd reported that he had spoken to Ilminster Foundation and they had no objections to the plans.

Councillors Pallister and Shepherd left the room whilst voting commenced. It was agreed that Cllr Goodall should chair this item.

The Town Clerk reported that she had been speaking with SSDC planning department and had presented them with the measurements for the Scorebox and they had advised her that it was unlikely the Council would need planning permission. The Clerk also said it would cost the Council less than the Cricket club to put in the application.

Councillors were asked whether they were happy with the layout and design of the proposed Score box. There was concern that the Scorebox will look like an extension to the existing pavilion. It was also felt that it would be more suitable if there was a 1-2metre gap between the pavilion and the Scorebox. After much discussion it was decided the Council were happy to put the plans forward to SSDC as long as the Cricket Club was happy to agree with the new proposal.

12. Licences working party

Cllr Goodall reported that the working party had considered Cricket Club licences and had focused on bring the separate licences together. She was waiting for comments for Ed Wells and once she had received these she would take the proposed licence to the legal team at SSDC for their comments.

13. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence

- a) Letter from IMEX – The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from IMEX requesting permission to use the Recreation Ground on Sunday 10th June for a dog show, dance show and have inflatable games, tea, coffee and bacon baps and also an ice-cream van.
Councillors were concerned that the grass on the recreation ground would need to recover following the Jubilee Celebrations. It was agreed that a representative of IMEX be asked to attend a meeting to submit plans for the event to the Council before a decision is made.
- b) Email from Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership – The Clerk notified councillors that Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership were carrying out an audit of sports facilities to playing pitches on Tuesday 3rd April at approximately 3pm.

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Councillors were happy for this to go ahead, Cllr Pallister agreed to meet them and talk to the Football Club.

- c) Letter of Complaint – The Clerk spoke of a letter she had received from a resident in Ilminster in relation to the bus route on the A30. Councillor Goodall said she was happy to write to them about their concerns.
- d) Ilminster Forum - Ilminster Forum had written to the Clerk requesting that the Council considers :
 1. Relaxing the requirement to have a charity stall as part of the Saturday Market
 2. To serve hot food for tasting purposes only
 3. Allow stand-alone Banners to be displayed

It was agreed that the Forum should continue to seek charities to attend the Market, if a charity had not been found two weeks prior to the Market an alternative stall holder could be found. It was also agreed to allow hot food and a stand alone banner.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Signature

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Date