

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 19:30hrs

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: F Albin, P Burton, R Drayton, J Fagan, J Fowler, C Goodall, V Keitch, A Shearman, J Sothern, R Swann and T Walker

**In Attendance**

Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk), Mrs S Whitefield (Deputy Town Clerk)

One member of the public attended the meeting.

The Chair read out a statement from the Football Club asking the Town Council to consider a request to hold a Bonfire Night for the Community in Brittens Field. This will be an item on a future agenda.

**OS9 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kinder, Councillor Neave and Councillor Storey

**OS10 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr Drayton	Agenda 3b – Action List No 6	OS11	Personal	Metal Detectorist	Spoke
Cllr Shearman	Agenda 9 – Herne Hill Fire Drills	OS17	Personal	Employed by Somerset County Council	Spoke and voted

**OS11 Minutes**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 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:

- Action 6 - Issues relating to metal detecting; tendency to take found items away without recording them, any historical item should remain the ownership of the town, club days which encourage a large number of metal detectorists can cause damage to the ground surface.
- Action 7 - The Chair and Councillor Storey to discuss the Skatepark.
- Action 8 - The notices along the canal are not intended to discourage feeding of ducks but advise of suitable foodstuffs.
- Action 12 – Refurbishment of the Belfast sinks.

**OS12 Wardens Report**

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

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The Open Spaces Team are doing a great job and their work is being commended in the community.

Chair's Initials
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- The Open Spaces Team are concentrating on grass cutting and trimming, litter picking, watering etc. and working extra hours. Other work is being left due to lack of time.
- The recently completed weed killing (bought in from Chard Town Council) looks severe but is necessary.
- The damage to the Trimax Snake by a volunteer has been repaired and the cost is covered by insurance.
- Consider reviewing the volunteer policy with regard to use of Council equipment.

### OS13 Police Report

No police representatives attended the meeting.

### OS14 Financial Comparison

The Committee considered the Financial Comparison report giving information about the Open Spaces Committee income, expenditure and commitments.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- 2200/2 Recreation Review Expenditure £1500 - what was this spent on. The Clerk will ask the Administration Officer (Finance) for the information.
- Income from Burial Fees is down.
- When invoices are sent to the Sports Clubs.

### OS15 Approval of Invoice for Summer Bedding

In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.1 the Committee considered the invoice received in the sum of £582.96 for summer bedding plants for troughs, hanging baskets and flower beds.

**RESOLVED** to pay the invoice in the sum of £582.96 and agree to the cost of winter bedding plants provided the total costs for both summer and winter bedding plants do not exceed £1500.

### OS16 Refund of Fair and Circus Deposits

The Committee considered granting approval to return the deposits of £500 each taken from the Fair and Circus to cover any damage caused as a result of holding these events.

**RESOLVED** to return the deposits of £500 each to the Fair and Circus.

### OS17 Herne Hill Fire Drills

The Committee considered a request from the Fire Service to use an off road appliance on Herne Hill for drill sessions.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The need to practice and the benefit to the town.

**RESOLVED** to approve the request from the Fire Service to use an off road appliance on Herne Hill for drill sessions.

### OS18 Cemetery Grass

The Committee considered the grass cutting frequency in the lower part of the cemetery.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The grass is currently very high in the bottom third of the cemetery, looks very unkempt, not in keeping with a well-kept cemetery and doesn't reflect well on the town.
- If it is decided to leave grass uncut, put up signs to say why.

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- Amount of work required to regularly cut it.
- Councillors volunteering to assist/make a start.
- Grass cutting priorities within the town.
- Creating a wild flower meadow.

**RESOLVED** that the grass in the lower part of the cemetery is cut monthly during the Summer and twice during the Winter.

### **OS19 Mule Replacement**

The Committee considered quotations received for replacing the Kawasaki Mule with a Kioti Mechron 2210.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Increased maintenance costs of the Mule.
- The high number of hours the Mule has done.
- Whether to purchase the additional set of wheels with off road tyres.
- Large price differences between quotations.

### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

- (i) Company A be appointed to supply a new Kioti Mechron 2210 UTV Vehicle taking the Kawasaki Mule in part exchange at a cost of £6,200.
- (ii) That the Open Spaces Wardens are to be consulted as to whether the additional set of wheels with off road tyres are necessary.

### **OS20 Herne Hill Advisory Group**

The Committee discussed future arrangements for the Herne Hill Advisory Group.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda items included:

- Identifying the aims of the Group.
- Draft Herne Hill Management Plan in place.
- Independent surveys are useful and group members have a wealth of knowledge in their specialisms.
- Importance of achieving the balance between competing interests.
- Renaming the Group, i.e. Friends of Herne Hill.
- Somerset Wildlife Trust involvement.

The meeting closed at 20.50hrs

Chair's Signature & Date