

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 29 March 2016 at 19.30 hrs

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: P Burton, J Fagan, J Fowler, C Goodall, V Keitch, D Kinder, A Shearman, J Sothern, S Storey, R Swann and T Walker

**In Attendance**

Officers: Ryan Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Joy Norris (Town Clerk) and Sally Whitefield (Deputy Town Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**OS70 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Albin, Drayton and Neave

**OS71 Declarations of Interest**

The declaration of interest detailed in the table below was made.

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
S Shepherd	9 Giant Water Slide in Britten's Field	OS78	Personal	President of Cricket Club	Spoke & Voted

**OS72 Minutes**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 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:

- Metal, wood and other scrap items have been removed from the cemetery by Cllrs Burton and Shearman; the committee thanked them for their hard work.
- The timescale for drafting an advertising policy; one councillor was extremely critical, that in his opinion, the Town Clerk was not prioritising this item urgently enough.
- The need to convene a meeting of the cemetery sub group as soon as possible to be followed by a second meeting a week or so later.
- Clarification that the metal balance beam will not be removed unless it is replaced by another piece of equipment as the health and safety risk of the existing beam is considered minimal.

**OS73 Police Report**

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

**OS74 Wardens Report**

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

Chair's Initials

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Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- New bench installed in New Road.
- The recent bad weather has damaged a few trees and branches in a number of locations and these are being attended to.
- The Senior Open Spaces Warden also thanked Cllrs Shearman and Drayton for their work in tidying the cemetery.
- The materials have arrived for work to the steps by Cleeves Close and work will commence soon.
- A bench situated adjacent to the Summervale Medical Centre was removed by the developer during the building of new houses. The Open Spaces Team retrieved the bench but it was damaged beyond repair but the commemorative plaque has been retained.
- Encourage community donations of benches.
- Chair of Open Spaces reported that he and the Town Clerk met with Open Spaces team who are all working very hard.
- Positive feedback on the work of the Open Spaces Team has been received from the community.
- Safety of the herbicide Glyphosate (Roundup); the Senior Open Spaces Warden has completed PA1 Safe use of pesticides and PA6aw Pesticides Hand Held Applications and holds appropriate certification.

### **OS75 Skate park**

The Chair of the Play and Paths Sub Group provided an oral update following discussions with Ryan Doeller and skate park users and subsequent discussions with representatives from the companies who supplied and installed the skate park regarding investigations into the surfaces of the skate park area and the equipment, and implications for the work to skate park module of the sketch design masterplan.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The main concerns are puddling and the perceived slippery surface.
- The Town Clerk has contacted the three companies who supplied and installed the skate park and met with their representatives and Cllr Storey on site during heavy rain, when the problem was evident.
- Hags do not recommend painting the surface.
- Frustration and disappointment that the skate park users asked for this item to be on the agenda and they have not taken up the invitation to attend the meeting.
- The skate park users have secured a grant of £600 to contribute towards skate park improvements.
- Part of the problem is due to the lay of the land.
- One quotation has been received providing two possible options to improve the surface to give an indication of cost, but specifies that the options will only help the current water problem and are not a total solution.
- There is no provision in the budget for improvements to the skate park surface.
- More difficult to do resurfacing work after proposed new works around the skate park have been completed.
- Skate park is safe to use but presence of water makes it less than ideal.
- Self-help, i.e. making a brush or squeegee available for users to clear the puddles.

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**RESOLVED** to leave skate park as it is unless it becomes a health and safety issue.

### **OS76 Purchase of a Pressure Washer**

The Committee considered a request from the Open Spaces Team to purchase a pressure washer.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Can be used anywhere.
- Use of chemical injector.
- Portability.

**RESOLVED** to purchase the pressure washer at a maximum cost of £765.00

### **OS77 Sign Posts and Information Boards for Herne Hill**

The Committee considered the provision of sign posts and information boards at Herne Hill.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Siting of posts and board.
- Approximate costs.
- No provision made in this year's budget.
- Possibility of attracting grant aid.
- Proactive approach to draft a scheme that could be used if a grant opportunity arises.
- Fundraising, request for donations.
- Would encourage people to walk.
- Possibility of schools/volunteer groups making way markers.
- Herne Hill Advisory Group input.

**RESOLVED** to proactively work with the Herne Hill Advisory Group to draft a scheme for information boards and way markers; bring back to council for approval to enable prices to be sought.

### **OS78 Giant Water Slide in Britten's Field**

The Committee considered a request from Ilminster Football club for permission to run a giant water slide down the slope in Britten's Field on 9 July 2016.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Water will be provided from a hydrant with support from the Fire Brigade and be dispersed using a commercial sprinkler onto the field.
- Criticism by some members of the community who perceive that Britten's Field is being taken over by the Football Club.
- Fun. family event that will appeal to the community.
- Chard have held a water slide down the High Street which was very popular.
- Difference between formal and informal use of Recreation Ground and Britten's Field and restrictions to other users.
- Viability of Football Club and Community Facility and the need to generate funds.
- Football Club to pay a deposit and bear full cost of reinstatement of any damage.
- Alternative disposal of water i.e. pump into canal.
- Whether there should be a nominal charge to use the land.

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**RESOLVED** to agree to the request to run a giant water slide on 9 July 2016, subject to Iminster Town Football Club paying a £500 deposit in advance of the event and agreeing to bear all reinstatement costs in the event of any damage.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chair's Signature & Date