

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 28th 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

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RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th 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.

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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

