

**ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 28th October 2014 at 19:30hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr C Goodall

Councillors: Cllr P Burton, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr R Neave, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern

In Attendance

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

1 member of the public attended this meeting

Speaker 1

It would be nice to have an area on the recreation ground which could be used by older people e.g. municipal bowling green – just an informal, non-competitive space.

151. 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.

152. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Higgins, Keitch, Storey, Swann and Taylor.

153. Declarations of Interest.

The declarations of interest given in the table below were made.

Name	Minute No	Agenda Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest
Cllr J Pallister	158	Agenda No 8 Ground Conditions on the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground	Personal	Unpaid groundsman for the cricket club

154. Minutes.**RESOLVED**

(i) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on **30th September 2014** as a correct record.

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

Items brought to the attention of the committee included the following:

- Chair has contacted Sustrans about the overgrown hedging but has not yet had a response

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155. Police Report

A police report was provided for Council on 14th October 2014 and there was no further report for this meeting

156. Wardens Report.

The report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster was considered.
No additional issues were raised.

RESOLVED to note the report

157. Request to use the Wharf lane Recreation Ground

The Committee considered a request from an all human circus to use the Wharf lane Recreation Ground.

Items discussed during consideration for this item included:

- need to avoid the circus clashing with the fair and the midsummer experience
- The number and size of vehicles which the circus would wish to take onto the Rec
- The potential attendance
- What facilities the circus may require to be provided e.g. water, electricity

RESOLVED

- (i) to give permission in principle for the all human circus to use the Rec
- (ii) that the Town Clerk obtains information regarding potential facilities required and attendance
- (iii) that the Town Clerk contacts of two places the circus has been to in the past 12 months as reference sites
- (iv) that the Town Clerk reports the information obtained in (ii) and (iii) above to a future meeting of the Committee so that a decision can be made regarding charges.

158. Ground Conditions on the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

The Working Group gave an oral update to report on progress on the specification for surfacing to go outside the Wardens' Workshop and the Cricket Store.

Items discussed during consideration for this item included:

- Weight of vehicles that will go over the surface
- Area to be included
- Size of drainage pipe required

RESOLVED that a new specification is compiled and is emailed to Councillors for comment

159. Financial Comparison

(A) The Committee received information about the Open Spaces Committee expenditure and commitments to date when compared with the 2014/15 budget. A report was also circulated to Councillors setting out the case for replacing the gang mowers with a tractor drawn rotary cutting machine during the current financial year.

Items discussed during consideration for this item included:

- Cemetery lodge
- Flood defence spending
- Inflation rate guidance for 15/16 budget

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- Cemetery lodge insurance –the possibility of an increase due the road subsidence on New Road
- The additional (new) water tap at cemetery may mean an increase in the water charges
- The grass cutting equipment currently owned by eth Town Council is not operable in wet conditions

RESOLVED to note the financial comparison report
RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that consideration is given to purchasing new grass cutting equipment in the current financial year.

(B) To give guidance to the Town Clerk on the preparation of the draft budget for 2015/16. A list of items to potentially be included in the draft budget had been circulated with eth agenda.

Issues discussed included

- Aereating / verti draining of the areas used for sport on the Rec and Britten's Field

160. **Kiosk on The Recreation Ground**

The Town Clerk gave an oral update on the operation of the kiosk and proposals for the winter period.

Items discussed during consideration for this item included:

- Closing the tuck shop from November until Easter 2015
- The number of volunteers currently willing to work in the kiosk

RESOLVED to note the report

The meeting closed at 20:46hrs

Chair's Initials & Date
