

**ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 13th August 2013 at 19:30hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr C Goodall

Councillors: Cllr Burton, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister,
Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern, Cllr S Storey, and Cllr R Swann,

In Attendance

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

Members of the Public

8 members of the public attended this meeting.

Issues brought to the attention of the Committee included:

- Herne Hill viewing platform.
Concern was raised that a large piece of concrete with two metal stakes is amongst the hardcore which has been put on Herne Hill for the construction of a viewing platform. This piece of concrete was positioned safely by the Open Spaces Wardens, but has been moved and left in a dangerous position. The Wardens will check the area is made safe.
- Herne Hill Seat
It was reported that the area around the seat at Herne Hill, which is where the seat was moved to make the pathway wider for the 'mule, is very overgrown. The Open Spaces Wardens will check this area.
- Britten's Field Development.
It was reported that there are rumours of a car park and buildings going to be built on Britten's Field. The Town Clerk advised that the Recreation Review is currently taking place and no decisions have been taken regarding future layouts. When there is an initial suggested layout there will be further public consultation .
- Parking along West Street, Ilminster
This is an item on the agenda .

35. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Austin, Councillor Vijeh and Councillor Taylor

36. 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 Pallister	41	7	Personal	Member of sports club
Cllr Shearman	43	9	Personal	Works part time for Somerset County Council

37. Minutes.

RESOLVED

- a) that the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd July 2013 and 23rd July 2013 are a correct record.
- b) to update the action list relating to the Open Spaces committee.

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Issues discussed included:

- An update on where the fair will be positioned in October 2013. The Town Clerk informed members that the fair will be in the usual place in October

38. **Wardens Report.**

The Committee received the report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent warden activities in Iminster.

Discussions included the following:

- The new toilet guttering has been damaged. An order has been placed for some additional securing clips which should minimise future problems.
- There have been positive comments regarding the new and replacement benches that have been positioned around the recreation ground, Britten's Field and the town
- The toddler's play area fence has been damaged again. The police have charged someone with criminal damage.
- Glass is deliberately being broken and left in the play area and on the equipment. The Town clerk will speak to PC Stewart as to what can be done to help prevent this happening.
- PC Stewart has sent letters to residents who live near the recreation ground.
- It was suggested that an Order could be put in place to stop alcohol being consumed in certain area on the recreation ground.
- A bench in Britten's field has been vandalised
- Glass bottles have been thrown over the field at Britten's Field

39. **Financial Comparison**

The Committee received revised information about the Open Spaces expenditure and commitments to date when compared with the 2013/14 budget.

RESOLVED that this matter should be discussed at the next Finance and Policy meeting.

40. **Provision for Seats and Bins**

The Committee was asked to consider the provisions for seats and bins as the Open Spaces Wardens have requested that 4 dog waste bins, 6 litter bins and 6 seats including an extra set of timber slats are needed.

An amount has been put into reserves to cover the costs of replacing these items

Issues discussed during the consideration of this item included:

- The two dog waste bins at Winterhay Lane will be refurbished and used elsewhere, but 4 new bins are still required.
- There has been an amount put in Renewals and Provisions to cover the costs of replacing items such as these.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the following items are purchased:

- a) 4 dog bins are purchased at a costs of £420
- b) 6 bins are purchased at a cost of £2317.02
- c) 6 benches and one set of slats at a cost of £2000.

41. **Weed killing on the Recreation Ground**

The Committee was asked to consider the quotation for weed killing on the recreation ground

The office staff has sought 4 quotations and have only received one back, which is from the company that was used last time the work was done The other three organisations that

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were contacted do not carry out weed killing on this scale and therefore have referred us back to the company which we have received the quotation from.

Discussions included the following:

- Once the weed killing has been carried out the land can be used immediately
- The area to be treated is a total of 6 hectares including the football pitches and the cricket outfield
- The costs to have this work carried out will come from the budget heading 561/11.
- It was suggested that clubs which used the recreation ground should make a contribution towards these costs in the future. When the clubs licences are reviewed, matters like this will be taken into consideration.
- Concerns were raised that when the cricket field is over seeded in September the young grass maybe killed by this treatment.
- It was suggested that the weed killing is delayed until April 2014 and an amount is forecasted in the budget for 2014/15 to cover this expenditure
- The grass should be treated years on year to keep it clear of weeds. It was suggested that this should be scheduled in every spring.

RESOLVED

- (i) That an amount is allocated in the 2014/15 budget for weed killing work
- (ii) That the weed killing treatment is carried out in April next year
- (iii) That a schedule is set up for weed killing treatment to be carried out every spring.
- (iv) That the cost of the weed killing should be borne in mind when rents and fees are set and / or reviewed

42. Herne Hill Advisory Group Update

The Chair advised the committee on the discussions at the recent Herne Hill Advisory Group meeting.

Discussions included the following:

- A quotation has been received to have a digger on Herne Hill for two days to remove the wood chippings from the bottom path to help with drainage issues. This will also help with the plan to make the site more accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- The Tree Officer at South Somerset District Council will be contacted about the disease found on the Ash trees.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the wood chippings on the bottom path at Herne Hill are removed by a digger at a cost not exceeding £450 and that the expenditure for this work will be allocated to budget heading 561/8.

43. Parking Restrictions in West Street

The Committee was asked by Somerset County Council to comment on lifting the parking restrictions of 6 bays in West Street

Issues discussed included the following:

- The parking restriction has become a problem for residents, now that the restriction is being enforced.
- East Street parking restrictions were changed as there was only one retail premises on that part of the road
- There is a public car park next to road where the parking restriction is.
- People using the shops here would generally have to park for longer than an hour and therefore would use the car park.
- Somerset County Council needs to consult with the retail traders at this location to find out their views

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RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Town Council supports the lifting of the parking restriction from the 6 bays in West Street

44. District Council Land Adoption Update

The Chair updated the committee on the District Council's land adoption policy. Discussions included the following:

- The maintenance of clearing roads and open spaces is sliding down the list of priorities of the County Council and the District Council.
- These lead authorities, in terms of budget, will not be in a position to take over open spaces in new developments. As a result this may be left to the Town Council to maintain or management agencies.
- The District Council only adopts open spaces if they are up to required standard
- The Town Council will need to find out what the required standard is for maintaining these areas if they become ours to maintain.
- If roads are not adopted then public transport cannot use them.
- On some new developments, residents have to contribute to maintaining their open spaces.
- The Environment Agency is now responsible for Shrudrick stream and the balancing pond, as the stream has now been designated as a river.

45. Water Supply at the Cemetery

The Committee was asked to consider the quotations received to install a water supply at the cemetery.

Discussions included:

- Route 1 is along the top of latest row of graves and across the bank. This will use more pipe, but will not involve digging around tree roots.
- Route two is along the bottom and across, running parallel with the railings.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Town Council accepts the quotation to install a water supply at the cemetery, using route one, at a cost of £350 and the expenditure for this work will be set against Renewals and Provisions for cemetery paths.

46. Update on Cemetery Administration

The members received the Town Clerk's report on cemetery administration.

Issues discussed included the following:

- The Town Clerk visited Chard cemetery to look at different ways of working.
- The Town Clerk attended a SLCC seminar on burial and cremation plots. This was very informative and a full report of suggestions and ideas will be taken to a future committee meeting for discussion.

47 Cemetery Wall.

The Committee was asked to recommend that quotations for rebuilding the cemetery wall are taken direct to Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the quotations for rebuilding the cemetery wall are taken direct to Full Council for approval.

Meeting ends 21.30hrs

re and date

f 24 Sept 2015