Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 13 November 2018 at 8.00pm

Present:
Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd
Committee Councillors: J Dewick, M Gunn, M James, R Swann, L Taylor and F White.

In Attendance:
Councillors: J Fowler, A Shearman, T Walker
Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk), Mrs D Salt (Administration Officer (Information))

Cllr Shearman raised a concern that bins on Herne Rise had not been emptied. The town Clerk responded that this has also been raised by members of the public and it appears the map showing bin locations is out of date. Arrangements are in hand for the Town Clerk and Open Spaces team member to locate the bins and for them to be emptied.

OS 205. Apologies for Absence.
An Apology for absence was received from Councillor Burton.

OS 206 Declarations of Interest.
No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda at this stage of the meeting.

OS 207 Minutes

a) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018 were presented for confirmation.

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2018 as a correct record.

b) The action list relating to the Open Spaces committee was considered.
No comments were raised

RESOLVED to note the office action list

OS 208 Police Report.
There was no police report and no policing matters were raised or reported.

OS 209 Financial Monitoring.
There was no report.

OS 210. Refund of Fair Deposit.
Consideration was given to returning the deposit received from the fair; the deposit is taken to cover any damage that may arise from their use of the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED that the deposit received from Marshall Herberts funfair is returned.

OS 211. Update about the Rec Users Group.
Cllr Dewick provided an oral summary of the main discussion points at the Rec Users Group held on 13 September 2018, these included:

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- Raised the issue with the grass and how it had been cut on the football pitches in Britten's Field
- Whether or not it would be a good idea to re-open the kiosk on the Rec; there is definitely some interest within the community in re-opening the tuck shop, perhaps this is something that could be discussed and progressed further in the Spring
- It was felt that the play equipment should take priority over putting footpaths in on the Rec

Issues raised by Councillors during this agenda item included:

- The User Group's terms Of Reference are for the Wharf Lane Rec and Britten's Field. It has been suggested that the Group should cover all the Open Spaces owned or managed by the Town Council; this needs further consideration as the needs and the users of different areas vary greatly for example managing Herne Hill is very different to managing the Wharf Lane Rec.
- Currently the allocation of Councillors who officially sit on the User Group is , however should any councillor wish to come along as a member of the public they would be more than welcome.
- When the request comes in for the Bonfire Night need to ask about location of the actual bonfire to minimise impact on the sports pitches
- The use of silent fireworks at public firework events was suggested as a way of reducing the noise impact

OS 212. **Budget 2019/20**

The Committee considered what items it would like to include on a budget wish list in preparation for the budget workshop.

The items raised included:

- Review the reserves and the annual allocation
- More money has been taken out of reserves than the amounts saved
- Money is put into the reserves each year for the specified items to ensure that when repairs or replacement is needed there are sufficient funds available
- Reserves for the tennis courts are approx. £40,000 – this is to cover resurfacing, replacement nets and fencing
- The canal would benefit from work such as dredging, some scrub clearance, landscape enhancements – it may be possible to get grants towards this work if there was also a Town Council contribution.

The meeting closed at 20.31hrs

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