

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 4 October 2022

Title: Ilminster Sports Club Ltd request for a bonfire

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider the request to have a bonfire and fireworks event on Britten's Field for Guy Fawkes night.

Recommendation:

1. Members to permit Ilminster Sports Club Ltd to hold a bonfire and fireworks event on Sunday 6th November 2022.
2. Members to request that ISC Ltd move the bonfire to the other site.
3. Members to request a £500.00 deposit pending the ground being reinstated to a satisfactory standard agreed by the Recreation Manager, the Chair/Vice Chair of Open Spaces and a representative of ISC Ltd.

Background:

1. From 2015, Ilminster Football Club have hosted a bonfire on Britten's Field after seeking permission from the Town Council to hold the event annually at the Open Spaces Meeting 24th November 2015 Minute OS53.

RESOLVED

- (i) to support the principle of an annual event in Britten's field, organised by Ilminster Town Football Club, subject to an annual review (taking place within 1 month of the annual event being staged) and the submission of the relevant documents such as lay out plans and risk assessments
 - (ii) permission is given to Ilminster Town Football Club to hold a firework and bonfire event in 2016 on the nearest Sunday to November 5th, subject to (i) above and the ground conditions being suitable
 - (iii) A £500.00 deposit to be lodged with the Town Council each year before the event which will be refunded provided that there is no ground damage or any other reason for which the Town Council needs to make expenditure as a result of the event.
2. Ilminster Sports Club Ltd requested hosting the bonfire and fireworks event on 4th November 2018 at the Open Spaces Meeting 28th November 2017 Minute OS135.

RESOLVED

(i) That Ilminster Sports Club Ltd be given permission to use Britten's Field on 4 November 2018 for a bonfire / firework event with public access to the field being closed from 1500hrs.

(ii) That the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to approve future similar requests from Ilminster Sports Club Ltd and that the Scheme of Delegations is amended accordingly.

3. Following the 2021 bonfire, there was a delay in reinstating the ground which was on the outfield of the cricket pitch. Throughout the period of the ground being reinstated, the office received a number of complaints from residents who use Britten's Field.

Report:

4. Ilminster Sports Club Ltd (ISC Ltd) have requested permission to hold a bonfire and fireworks event on Britten's Field on Sunday 6th November 2022.
5. ISC Ltd sent a plan of the site which is attached at **Appendix 10A**.
6. On behalf of the Town Council, who is the landowner, officers took the opportunity to ask the cricket club, senior football club and youth football club if they accepted the proposed site of the bonfire on the plan or if they would like to see the bonfire site moved.
7. After a discussion concerning the delay in repairing the ground after the last bonfire in 2021, it was suggested that the site be moved to a different area which is marked on the plan at **Appendix 10A**.
8. As an organisation using a public recreation area, the Town Council usually request a deposit of £500.00 to cover any significant damage to the ground. The Town Council request the £500.00 deposits from the fair, and the human circus.
9. Members may consider keeping the bonfire in the same position or they may ask ISC Ltd to move to the other site.
10. Members may wish to reinstate the requirement of a £500.00 deposit with regards to the ground being reinstated to a satisfactory standard agreed by the Recreation Manager, the Chair of Open Spaces and a representative of ISC Ltd.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
September 2022