

Minutes of the **Recreation Ground Users Group** held at 6pm Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>  
November 2022  
at The Arts Centre, East Street, Ilminster

**Attendees:**

Cllr Sue Osborne, Ilminster Town Council  
Cllr Paul Sellers, Ilminster Town Council  
Mark Tredwin, Town Clerk, Ilminster Town Council  
Julie Earp, Deputy Town Clerk, Ilminster Town Council  
Stuart Shepherd, Ilminster Education Foundation  
Ben Jenner-Hurford, recreation ground user  
Jason Fontana, Recreation Manager, Ilminster Town Council  
Jonny Watkins, Vice Chair, Ilminster Youth Football Club  
Dan Haines, Chairman, Ilminster Town Football Club  
Mark Nicholas, Chairman of Ilminster Angling Association  
Craig Rice, Chairman, Ilminster Cricket Club Ltd  
Sian Sainsbury, Safeguarding & Welfare, Ilminster Cricket Club Ltd  
Emma Jane Taylor, Ilminster Sports Club Ltd

**1. Welcome and any Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Matt James  
Claire Oaten, Head of Herne View CofE Primary School  
Vernon Higgins, Teacher at Herne View CofE Primary School  
Jean Cording, Chair, Croquet Club, Dowlish Wake  
PCSO John Martin

**2. Introductions from users of the recreation ground and Britten's Field**

Each attendee introduced themselves and informed the group of the organisation they represented.

**3. To elect a Chair**

Cllr Sue Osborne was elected as Chair of the Recreation Ground Users Group.

**Proposed:** Cllr Sellers

**Seconded:** Jonny Watkins

**4. To elect a Vice Chair**

Cllr Paul Sellers was elected as Vice Chair of the Recreation Ground Users Group.

**Proposed:** Emma Jane Taylor

**Seconded:** Stuart Shepherd

**5. To agree Terms of Reference (ToRS)**

The ToRS dated 17 October 2017 were reviewed and updated by the group. Discussions were about the involvement of representatives from the Youth Councils of Herne View and Wadham. One representative from each school could be invited along with their parents as observers, and that the children are not directly related to the members of the RGUG.

It was suggested to include Herne Hill, however that group preferred to be kept separate. However, the RGUG should include all other open spaces currently looked after by Ilminster Town Council.

Any recommendations from RGUG to Open Spaces committee will be made on a majority basis. The amended ToRS were recommended to go to the next Open Spaces Committee to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 for agreement.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10**

The meeting frequency would include additional meetings to be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of RGUG.

The masterplan for the recreation ground is not complete, however plans are being made for a fitness trail. There was an A3 plan of the proposed path which may help with the current plans.

The canal was originally classed as a fishery and should be included in the ToRs.

The group agreed that the ToRS should be reviewed by RGUG on an annual basis in February, to give enough time for them to be put forward to the Open Spaces Committee and onto the Town Council May meeting.

### **6. Public Consultation**

The Deputy Town Clerk spoke of the ongoing public consultation that is being carried out by Ilminster Town Council covering new play park equipment at Winterhay play park and West Crescent play park. The proposed fitness trail on the recreation ground and the future use of the tennis courts as well as the future use of the old council offices on North Street. She highlighted the need to have more younger people completing the questionnaire. The members of the group agreed to share the posters and QR codes with the young people they are in contact with.

### **7. Potential User Agreements**

The Deputy Town Clerk handed out a map of the location of the pitches on Britten's Field and the recreation ground, an example Licence, and a site agreement for maintenance of pitches which were used as a basis for the list of conditions that were presented to the football and cricket clubs.

The attendees were given a brief on the background of the proposed conditions for the user agreements which started in September, was discussed at Open Spaces in October where it was agreed to reform the RGUG and to refer the conditions back to the group for discussion.

It was made clear that the recreation ground and Britten's Field were for the use of everyone and there would be no exclusivity to the clubs, however, the clubs would be given priority for booking pitches and would be consulted if other groups requested to use the area of the pitches.

Discussions involved the area of land currently in use by the cricket club on the recreation ground. The group were informed that the land from the canal over to the Tony Rice bar was owned by Ilminster Education Foundation (IEF) and not Ilminster Town Council. The cricket club and IEF were currently in negotiations for a new lease and it was hoped this would be in place by April 2023.

Some of the conditions were then discussed. The football clubs and cricket club would not have exclusivity to the pitches as the recreation ground and Britten's Field area as they were open to everyone. However, they would be given priority if they booked the pitches in advance. Ilminster Town Council would consult them should any other group ask to use the area, and that any agreement with another club/group would need to include reparation should any damage occur to the pitches.

The moving of goalposts was discussed, and it was agreed the football clubs would move them every week to allow the Town Council grounds team to cut the grass.

It was agreed that Jonny Watkins would review and produce a revised set of conditions and would email them to the group before the next RGUG meeting.

**8. Date/time of next meeting**

7pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in the Chamber of the council offices,  
North Street, Ilminster TA19 0DG.

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