

Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on
Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 20.30 hrs, Council Chamber, Council Offices, North
Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG

Chair: Cllr M Gunn

Committee: Cllr R Swann, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr L Wilcock, Cllr F White, Cllr B Hamilton,
Cllr H Lancaster

Officers: M Tredwin (Town Clerk) J Earp (Deputy Clerk and RFO) V Freeman
(Administration Officer) Adam Barnett (Recreation Grounds Manager)

Councillors: Cllr P Burton, Cllr B Jenner-Hurford

OS356 Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

OS357 Apologies for absence

Cllr Shepherd – meeting

Cllr Lancaster arrived.

Cllr Jenner-Hurford left the meeting

OS358 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest made.

OS359 Dispensations

None requested, none granted

OS360 Minutes

There were no minutes to be agreed as the Open Spaces Committee Meeting
Scheduled for 3rd August 2021 was cancelled.

OS361 Open Spaces report

Members **NOTED** the reports from the Grounds Manager and the Countryside
Team.

Members commented on how useful the new handrail on the steep section of
Herne Hill will be especially during the winter months. There are plans to look
at the worn steps in due course.

Members discussed the volunteer who lives near the Burma Star Garden who
tends to the garden and that the Town Council should look to write to her to
formally thank her for all her hard work keeping the area looking at its best.

Members discussed the use of the tennis courts.

OS362 Financial Monitoring Report

Members **NOTED** the Finance Report.

Members were advised that we may need to look to buy a new noticeboard for the cemetery if the grounds team are unable to repair the current board.

OS363 Welcome Back Funding

Members **NOTED** the report.

Members discussed the Welcome Back Funding and were advised that clarification has been sought and if an item was not on the original list, as long as it fits the criteria, it can be added.

Members discussed solar low level lighting in the Swan Precinct as the area is dark in the evenings and solar lighting is very low maintenance.

A member of the public has requested replacement bins in the town centre as the current bins need replacing and the Welcome Back funding can be used to purchase them.

Members discussed recycled benches like other local Town Councils have been using. They are environmentally friendly, they require little maintenance, they are easy to wipe down/keep clean and there is a space for a plaque.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council to progress projects as identified at the Open Spaces meeting. Delegation to be given to Officers, the Chair and Vice Chair to implement the selected projects.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr White

OS364 Permission for a Plaque under tree in Cemetery

Members discussed a request to place a plaque under a tree in Section D of the Cemetery.

Discussions included the type of plaque, whether it would hinder grass cutting and maintenance.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to **Recommend** that permission be granted, in consultation with Officers, to place a flat plaque/stone under a tree in section D of the Cemetery.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Wilcock

OS365 Permission for a plaque on a bench overlooking Britten's field

Members discussed the location, the wording on the plaque and the schedule of fees and charges.

Members **RESOLVED** by 5 votes for and 1 against to grant permission to place a plaque on a bench overlooking Britten's Field with the family making a donation towards the rejuvenation of the bench.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

OS366 DEFRA Local Nature Recovery Strategies – consultation

Members **NOTED** the report.

Members thanked the Countryside Manager for his informative report.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to recommend to Full Council that officers should respond as proposed in the report provided.

Proposer Cllr Swann **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

OS367 Recreation Ground Play Park

Members discussed the health and safety issue of children being able to crawl under the Sophie Louise.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to **Recommend** Full Council to implement the installation of gravel boards to the legs of the Sophie Louise to be fitted by Play UK

Proposer Cllr Wilcock **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

OS368 Headstone Testing on the Cemetery

Members **NOTED** the headstone safety testing report.

Members discussed the cost of repairing the headstones and the likelihood of being able to contact family members due to the headstones dating back to 1846

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to **Recommend** Town Council covers the cost of re sticking 12 headstones.

Proposer Cllr Lancaster **Seconded** Cllr Swann

OS369 Ilminster Officers Cemetery Training – ICCM

Members **NOTED** that the office will review and update the policies and forms for the Cemetery and present back to the committee for agreement.

Members **NOTED** that the cemetery working group need to meet and share further information gained from the course and procedures that could be implemented.

OS370 Electricity and water supply on the recreation ground.

Members discussed adding an external tap and adding the required pipework for a sink and a water meter inside the tuck shop plus external and additional electrical sockets where required for the tuck shop and an external socket at the Warden's Buildings. Members have requested that we use local plumbers/electricians where possible.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to **Recommend** to Full Council that officers arrange the installation of an external tap with a lockable cover and pipework for a sink in the Tuck Shop and add a water meter.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Swann

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to **Recommend** to Full council that officers arrange the fitting of external electrical sockets with lockable covers on the Public Toilet Block and Wardens Buildings, and to move internal sockets and install sockets where required in the Tuck Shop.

Proposer Cllr Lancaster **Seconded** Cllr White

Meeting ended at 21.53