

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held on **1st August 2023** at **19.58 hrs** held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

Chair: Cllr M Gunn

Committee: Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr S Shepherd

Officers: M Tredwin (Town Clerk) J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk and RFO), V Freeman (Administration Officer), J Taylor (Countryside Manager)

In attendance: Cllr M James, Cllr P Sellers, Cllr A Shearman and 1 member of the public.

23-0026-OS Public Forum

A representative of Party on the Park addressed Members. The Party on the Park organisers are trying to understand the breakdown in communication between themselves and the Town Council.

The Party on the Park organisers received a request for a £500 deposit.

Officers advised the representative by email that the Recreation Ground Users Group were advised at the 7th July meeting regarding the change in charging policy from 1st April 2023.

The Ilminster Experience (IMEX) did not pay a deposit this year. There is no reason why Party on the Park and IMEX should be treated differently.

Members were asked about paying for the collection of rubbish after the event.

The representative asked the Town Council to work with the community in the best interests of the town.

The Town Council were asked to review their processes for approving events on the recreation ground.

The organisers of Party on the Park are proud of the event.

23-0027-OS Apologies for absence

Cllr S Osborne

Cllr J Karchud

Cllr D Paul

The Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided.

23-0028-OS Declarations of interest

Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in Agenda item 14 Request for amendments to the Ilminster Youth Football Club licence.

23-0029-OS Dispensations

There were no dispensations requested or granted.

23-0030-OS

Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2023 as a correct record.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0031-OS

Minutes

Members **NOTED** the minutes from the Recreation Ground Users Group held on 11th July 2023.

23-0032-OS

Minutes

Members **NOTED** the minutes from the Herne Hill Users Group held on 21st July 2023.

23-0033-OS

Clerk's Update

The Town Clerk asked Members to start to think about how they would like to mark the opening of the refurbished tennis courts. The tennis court refurbishment is underway. Currently waiting for the new tarmac to be laid. Members expressed concerns about the slow progress of the refurbishment, the Town Clerk advised Members that he will contact the LTA representative for an update.

Members were asked to give some thought as to how they would like to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and how to mark the late Queen Elizabeth II passing.

The Open Spaces team have installed the Platinum Jubilee bench, Members and staff have been receiving many positive comments about the bench.

A new wheelie bin has been purchased that is being kept by the wardens building to help contain the rubbish bags.

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) have advised officers that ERBs can be extended at any time back up to and including 100 years. For example, if an ERB has 53 years left to run the owners can buy the remaining 47 years. The ICCM have advised that the charge will be a percentage of the fee charged, for example, if the charge for a new plot is £100 the charge would be £47 to extend the ERB for 47 years.

Somerset Council will be carrying out a tree survey in the near future.

23-0034-OS

Recreation Ground Users Group REPORT (RUG)

Members **NOTED** the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Recreation Ground Users Group.

Members **NOTED** there are no changes to the Recreation Ground Users Group Terms of Reference.

Members resolved unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to put a plan in place in future budgets for the cost of hiring a digger to maintain drainage ditches on Town Council land.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

23-0035-OS

Herne Hill Users Group Report (HUG)

This Agenda item was incorporated into Agenda item 13 Herne Hill Nature Reserve Management Plan.

23-0036-OS

Financial Monitoring Report

Members **NOTED** the financial monitoring report.

The RFO was asked by a Member what was included in the donations headings of the report. The RFO advised that it was a donation for a memorial bench and wood sales.

The Town Clerk updated Members that the restorative justice work has taken place with the school pupils from Herne View School. The Countryside Manager had reported that it had gone well and hoped that the children involved now understand more about the consequences of vandalism.

The Town Clerk is also in contact with Wadham School and is looking to implement a similar solution with them.

23-0037-OS

Open Spaces Team report

Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.

The committee Chair thanked the Countryside Manager and his team for all their hard work. It was noted that Members and officers are receiving regular compliments from members of the public about our open spaces.

The Ilminster Education Foundation have been approached to seek permission to complete the hedge laying along Canal Way as they own the final piece of land.

23-0038-OS

Herne Hill Nature Reserve Management Plan

The Countryside Manager outlined the timescales for applying for the Green Flag and was looking to apply around December time. Members complimented the Countryside Manager on his excellent plan.

Members **NOTED** the Herne Hill Management Plan.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the purchase of Quote A for a new orientation and notice board for the main entrance of Herne Hill.

Proposer Cllr Shepherd **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the purchase of Quote A for new ladder signage for Herne Hill entrances.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

C Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to the commission of graphic design from supplier A for a new A1 map, A3 double sided leaflet and A4 map.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Jenner-Hurford

D Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve to carry out a face-to-face survey.

Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

AGENDA ITEM 5

23-0039-OS Request for amendments to the Ilminster Youth Football Club Licence

- A** Members **RESOLVED** by 4 votes for and 1 abstention (Cllr Shepherd) to agree the amendments to the licence and the revised pitch layouts on Britten's Field.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Gunn
- B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the change in pitch fees for 2023/2024.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

23-0040-OS Tennis courts nets and posts

The Countryside Manager advised Members that the tennis court posts are placed into a socket with a security bolt.

- A** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree the purchase of two sets of nets and posts for two of the public tennis courts.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Gunn
- B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to offering a set of nets and posts to the local schools before disposing of them.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

23-0041-OS Christmas Tree

Members discussed is it 'green' to cut down a tree. Could a slow growing living tree be placed in a planter, it was decided this could be a health and safety risk. Will the tree detract from the existing display on the Market House. There was previously a tree there and was very popular with residents.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to allow the Ilminster Christmas Lights Committee to erect a Christmas Tree next to the Market House.

Proposer Cllr Shepherd **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

Meeting ended at 20.59