

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held on **7th February 2023** at **19:45 hrs** in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

- Chair:** Cllr B Jenner-Hurford
- Committee:** Cllr S Osborne, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr B Hamilton
- Officers:** M Tredwin (Town Clerk), J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk and RFO), V Freeman (Administration Officer)
- In attendance:** 4 members of the public. Cllr P Sellers

22-0065-OS

Public Forum

Craig Rice spoke on behalf of the Cricket Club.

Craig explained to Members that everyone is struggling financially at the moment and asked that the rent is kept at a sensible rate. They are happy to carry on with how things are. They are happy for youth football to carry on using the pitch. Craig requested that they can access the cricket pitch in early April to prepare for the new season.

Jonny Watkins spoke on behalf of Ilminster Youth Football Club. Jonny thanked the Clerk and Rec Users Group as they have found the Rec Users Group very useful and it has opened the lines of communication between the clubs, the public and the Council.

They have been making suggestions to licence updates via email and he is happy to clarify any of the points he made.

They support option 2 and asked that the Town Council continue to honour the discount for the Youth Football Club, and if the final licence could be sent to them to be reviewed.

19.49 Cllr S Osborne arrived and joined the meeting.

Dan Haines spoke on behalf of Ilminster Football Club

Dan advised Members that any additional costs would have to be passed on to his Club Members. That Option 1 is feasible but a lot of admin so it would need to be an annual fee. Option 3 pay as you go would not be feasible. Option 2 would be the best option. Dan questioned the possible duplicate charge of the grandstand pitches as the FA view them as 1 club using 1 pitch.

There has previously been no set process to work out the pitch fees however the football club have produced a spreadsheet to work out future charges using land area by 10p per square metre which was sent to the Town Council this afternoon. This option could easily be increased annually.

22-0066-OS

Apologies for absence

Cllr M Gunn – Personal reasons

Cllr D Paul – Business commitments

- 22-0067-OS** **Declarations of interest**
Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 Licences and pitch fees for football and cricket clubs 2023.
- 22-0068-OS** **Dispensations**
There were no dispensations requested or granted.
- 22-0069-OS** **Minutes**
Members **RESOLVED** by 4 votes for, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022 as a correct record.
Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Taylor
- 22-0070-OS** **Minutes**
Members **NOTED** the Minutes of the Recreation Ground Users Group meeting held on 24 January 2023 and considered the recommendations therein.
The Clerk and Cllr Osborne thanked everyone who attended the Recreation Ground Users Group meetings as it has been a useful forum.
- 22-0071-OS** **Clerk's update**
The Clerk updated Members on the tennis courts. There has been a site meeting where the location of the new gates was discussed to give users better accessibility. The first two courts will only need a top dressing as they are in good condition. The other two courts will require a complete refurbishment. We will need to purchase one set of posts and nets for the first two courts but these will be supplied for the other two fully refurbished courts. Officers are waiting to receive a copy of the agreement from SSDC.
A meeting of the Herne Hill Users Group is in the process of being arranged as part of the process to work towards gaining a Green Flag.
- 22-0072-OS** **Licences and pitch fees for football and cricket 2023**
Members discussed the proposed licences and minor amendments suggested by Ilminster Youth Football Club and officers which would be included in the final draft.
Officers will send the final draft of the licences to the football and cricket clubs before the next Town Council meeting to give them the opportunity to review them.
Members discussed the 3 options for the pitch fees presented to them, as well as the option provided by Ilminster Town Football Club. Option 2 and the football club's suggested option were the main part of the discussion and it was decided that as Members had not had sufficient time to consider the football club's option properly, that officers will use Option 2 for 2023/24 and review the pitch fees including the football club's option for 2024/25 onwards.
- A** Members resolved by 4 votes for and 1 abstention (Cllr Shepherd) to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the pitch fees shown in Option 2 to be incorporated in the Schedule of Charges and in

AGENDA ITEM 5

the proposed Licence for each of the relevant cricket and football clubs with the intention to introduce a revised format of charges for 2024/25.

Proposer Cllr Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

B Members resolved by 4 votes for and 1 abstention (Cllr Shepherd) to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to accept the licences with any amendments considered necessary for the relevant cricket and football clubs who use the pitches on the recreation ground and Britten's Field.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

22-0073-OS

Schedule of charges

Members resolved unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to approve the proposed Schedule of Charges outlined in Appendix 9B.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

22-0074-OS

Open Spaces Team report

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

It was noted that Members, Officers and the Open Spaces team have all been receiving positive feedback from members of the public regarding the recent hedge laying along Canal Way.

The meeting Chair, on behalf of the Open Spaces committee, thanked the Open Spaces team for all their hard work.

22-0075-OS

Fitness Trail

Members discussed the three options for the fitness trail with Route 2 being favoured. It was noted that the fitness trail would run along the existing path by the Tony Rice bar and this could mean moving the grandstand pitch over to accommodate the 2 metre respect line required for that pitch.

Members resolved unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to approve Route 2 for the location of a fitness trail on the recreation ground.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

22-0076-OS

Financial Monitoring Report

Members **NOTED** the financial monitoring report.

22-0077-OS

Cemetery Noticeboard

a) Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that officers be delegated authority to purchase a new noticeboard using quote E, to display the information such as, purchase prices, rules and regulations and a map of the cemetery.

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

b) Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that officers be delegated authority to choose a suitable location for the new noticeboard and erect accordingly.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton