

Agenda Item 7

Minutes of the **Open Spaces** held on **4th April 2023** at **19.49 hrs**
held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

Chair: Cllr M Gunn

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

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

In attendance: Cllr P Burton, Cllr A Shearman and 7 members of the public.

23-0001-OS Public Forum

Mr Nicholas, the Chair of the Ilminster Angling Association addressed Members to advise them that the canal bank requires some maintenance. The path becomes flooded, and it is becoming dangerous when they are angling and people are walking by on the same path. Mr Nicolas suggested 2 paths, one for the anglers and one for people walking by. The Disabled Anglers Association are looking to put in some disabled pegs to make the angling open to more people. They are keen to work alongside the Countryside/Recreation Manager.

Ms Hickey addressed Members that she has concerns regarding the yew trees in the churchyard. Ms Hickey is concerned that the trees are too large and if they are not cut regularly, they are harder to control.

The meeting Chair advised Ms Hickey that her concerns will be discussed as part of agenda item 7.

Mr Lucy advised Members that the roots from the yew trees are spreading and they may start to affect the drainage.

The meeting Chair advised Mr Lucy that his concerns will be discussed as part of agenda item 7.

Sian Sainsbury spoke on behalf of the Ilminster Cricket Club. Mrs Sainsbury advised Members that Ilminster Cricket Club were disappointed that a meeting had gone ahead, without their presence, to decide if the bonfire site had been returned to a usable condition. The youth season starts on 23rd April. They feel that the ground has not been returned to an acceptable standard. They also have concerns that someone could be injured and who would be liable. It will cost money for the Cricket Club to make the ground safely playable.

The meeting Chair advised Mrs Sainsbury that her concerns will be discussed as part of agenda item 7.

- 23-0002-OS** **Apologies for absence**
Cllr B Hamilton
Cllr D Paul
The Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided.
- 23-0003-OS** **Declarations of interest**
Cllr Osborne declared an interest in agenda item 12 Request to register fields at the base of Herne Hill as a Community Asset, as a County Councillor.
- 23-0004-OS** **Dispensations**
There were no dispensations requested or granted.
- 23-0005-OS** **Minutes**
Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2023 as a correct record.
Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Taylor
- 23-0006-OS** **Clerk's Update**
Members **NOTED** the report.
- 23-0007-OS** **Open Spaces Team report**
Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.
The Countryside Manager advised Members that the trees in the churchyard are in a Conservation area and have tree preservation orders on them. A planning application to prune the trees sent to SSDC has been rejected as they believed that the proposed work would have caused damage to the trees. The Countryside Manager has requested an onsite meeting with the tree officer to come to an agreement. The meeting will be scheduled for next year.
- 20.07 Cllr Jenner-Hurford leaves the meeting.
20.08 Cllr Jenner-Hurford returns to the meeting.
- The Countryside Manager advised Members that he has spoken to a representative of Ilminster Sports Club Ltd and they are going to reseed, add top soil and roll the bonfire site before the cricket season starts.
The Countryside Manager is happy to meet a cricket club representative at the site.
- 23-0008-OS** **Financial Monitoring Report**
Members **NOTED** the financial monitoring report.
- 23-0009-OS** **Cemetery Rules**
Members discussed the updated Cemetery rules.
Discussions included the wording of some of the rules.
Officers will meet with the Chair/Vice Chair of Open Spaces to review the wording of the rules and bring them back to the next Full Council meeting as an agenda item.

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Members have requested a copy of the proposed rules are sent to all Members ahead of the meeting for them to review.

23-0010-OS

Canal Maintenance

Members discussed the report.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers, in conjunction with the Rec Users Group, to produce a plan for future maintenance of the canal.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

20.26 Cllr Jenner-Hurford leaves the meeting.

20.27 Cllr Jenner-Hurford returns to the meeting.

23-0011-OS

Grounds Staff Uniforms

- A** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to purchase new uniforms for the grounds team that carry the Town Council logo and name

Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

- B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate authority to officers to investigate and purchase decals that can be applied to the Town Council owned equipment where considered appropriate.

Proposer Cllr Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

23-0012-OS

Request to register fields at the base of Herne Hill as a Community Asset

Members discussed registering the fields at the base of Herne Hill as a community asset.

Members resolved by 5 votes for and 1 abstention (Cllr Osborne) to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the land identified as areas I1 and I2 be put forward for registration as Community assets and following further investigation consideration is given to registering I3, I4, I5, I6 and I7 at a later date.

Proposer Cllr Gunn **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

Meeting ended at 20.45