

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held on **5 December 2023** at **19.43hrs** held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

Chair: Cllr M Gunn

Committee: Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr S Shepherd

Officers: J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk), V Freeman (Administration Officer), J Fontana (Open Spaces Manager)

In attendance: There were no members of the public in attendance.
Cllr P Sellers

23-0052-OS Public Forum
There were no members of the public present.

23-0053-OS Apologies for absence
Cllr J Karchud
Cllr D Paul
Cllr L Taylor
The Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided.
Cllr S Osborne sent her apologies that she may arrive late for the meeting due to attending another meeting first.

23-0054-OS Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest made.

23-0055-OS Dispensations
There were no dispensations requested or granted.

23-0056-OS Minutes
Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2023 as a correct record.
Proposer Cllr Shepherd **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

23-0057-OS Open Spaces Team report
Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.
Members commented on the positive feedback they have been receiving regarding the bench refurbishment program and the Burma Star Garden.
Members discussed the bus shelter on Canal Way. Officers are in the process of obtaining quotes for the damage to be repaired. There is a possibility that the damage was caused by the wind and the design of the shelter and not by vandalism.
The Chair thanked the Open Spaces team for all their hard work. Members asked if the tennis court usage figures could be included in future open spaces reports.

23-0058-OS Financial Monitoring Report
Member **NOTED** the report.

20.10 Cllr Osborne arrived.

23-0059-OS

Purchase of a bin

Members discussed purchasing a litter bin for the path along Shudrick Stream.

Discussions included where to site the bin, the style of bin, the restrictions of emptying a co-mingle bin, permission of the landowner, the cost of emptying the bin, any future implications regarding Somerset Council and would litter picking be a better option.

Members decided to defer this Agenda item to the 6th February 2024 Open Spaces meeting when further information regarding Somerset Council should be available.

23-0060-OS Plant contract

Members discussed the annual plant contract. Discussions included the environmental impact changing the planters twice a year and the watering, would triple planters be more efficient and easier to maintain, and would residents help out with the watering.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to obtain quotes for a new 3 year contract for plants for the troughs and hanging baskets.

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

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to authorise the purchase of 10 hanging baskets.

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

The Open Spaces Manager and the Chair of Open Spaces to decide on the colour of the hanging baskets.

Meeting ended at 20:41