

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held on **6 February 2024** at **20.00hrs** 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 D Paul, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr L Taylor

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 and Cllr J Morris

23-0061-OS **Public Forum**
There were no members of the public present.

23-0062-OS **Apologies for absence**
Cllr J Karchud
Cllr S Osborne
The Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided.

23-0063-OS **Declarations of interest**
Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in Agenda item 9 Schedule of Charges 2024/25.

23-0064-OS **Dispensations**
There were no dispensations requested or granted.

23-0065-OS **Minutes**
Members **RESOLVED** by 5 votes for that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2023 as a correct record.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0066-OS **Minutes**
Members **NOTED** the Minutes of the Recreation Ground Users Group meeting held on **30 January 2024**.

Cllr Paul and Cllr Shepherd declared an interested in the resolution below.

Members **RESOLVED** by 4 votes for and 2 abstentions (Cllr Paul and Cllr Shepherd) to the RUG meetings being held alternately at the Tony Rice Bar and the Archie Gooch Pavilion.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0067-OS **Open Spaces Team report**
Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.
Members thanked the Open Spaces team for all their hard work.

23-0068-OS

Finance Report

Members **NOTED** the report.

23-0069-OS

Schedule of Charges 2024/25

Members discussed the proposed options for setting the 2024/25 pitch fee charges.

Discussions included using the midpoint of September 2023 RPI and CPI figures to calculate the charges.

- A** Members resolved by 5 votes for and 1 abstention (Cllr Shepherd) to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to increase the pitch fee charges for 2024/25 by 7.8% as per Option 2 in Appendix 9C from 1st April 2024.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Paul

- B** Members resolved by 5 votes for and 1 abstention (Cllr Shepherd) to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to increase the pitch fee charges in subsequent years by using the midpoint of September's RPI and CPI figures to calculate the charges.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Paul

- C** Members resolved unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Cemetery fees for 2024/25 are increased by 7.8% (rounded to the nearest pound) from 1st April 2024.

Proposer Cllr Gunn **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

- D** Members resolved unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Commercial Business rate per hour for the tennis court usage is to be set at £10 per hour from 1st April 2024.

Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0070-OS

Purchase of a bin

Members discussed purchasing a replacement bin along the footpath by Shudrick stream on Fairfield.

Discussions included the emptying of bins was a high priority on the community survey, more bins doesn't necessarily bring less rubbish, do we need to look at less bins but bigger bins, we are waiting for further information from Somerset Council regarding the emptying of bins going forward.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to defer a decision on purchasing a replacement bin along the footpath by Shudrick stream on Fairfield until the April Open Spaces meeting when further information should be available from Somerset Council.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0071-OS

Cemetery Rules

Members resolved unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to agree the amendments for the Cemetery Rules & Regulations as proposed in the General Rules & Regulations, and the Funeral Directors Rules & Regulations, to be introduced with immediate effect.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

23-0072-OS

Plant Contract

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to make enquiries with regards to taking over the triangle planter on the corner of West Street and the planted area at the top of North Street as part of the devolution of assets from Somerset Council.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to spend up to a maximum of £2,500 for a year's contract to supply plants.
Proposer Cllr Gunn **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0073-OS

Replacement of Handheld Equipment

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree in principle to replace handheld petrol equipment with electric equivalents when current equipment requires replacement.
Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

23-0074-OS

Exempt Business

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded while members consider this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

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

23-0075-OS

Youth Shelter Surface

Officers advised Members that they were unable to obtain 3 quotes for the conipave surfacing as it is a specialist surface. When officers contacted Conipave they advised us that Somerset Landscapes Ltd are the only supplier in the area. Somerset Landscapes Ltd are a Somerset Council preferred supplier.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the quote of £995 for the conipave surfacing of the youth shelter floor area and the short path that leads from the youth shelter to the skate park.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

B Members **RESOLVED** to agree using funds of £995 from Earmarked Reserves S106 Maintenance of Wharf Lane play park.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Jenner-Hurford

23-0076-OS

Play Equipment Inspection Contract

Members discussed the quotes.
Discussions included the length of the contract and the level of detail provided in the inspection reports.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Members **RESOLVED** by 4 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention to choose supplier Inspect and Repair for a one year contract to provide the annual play inspections for Winterhay play park, West Crescent play park and the Wharf Lane recreation ground play park.

Proposer Cllr Paul **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

Meeting ended at 21.29

Draft