

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 1 August 2023

Title: Recreation Ground Users Group Report

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider the recommendations emanating from the Recreation Ground Users Group Meeting held on 11th July 2023.

Recommendation:

1. Members to note the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Recreation Ground Users Group.
2. Members to note there are no changes to the Recreation Ground Users Group Terms of Reference.
3. Members resolve 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.

Report:

4. A Recreation Ground Users Group Meeting was held on 11th July 2023 which resulted in the following recommendations to the Open Spaces Committee:
 - a. To note the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - b. To note there are no changes to the Terms of Reference.
 - c. To consider and agree to getting the ditch, between the Archie Gooch pitch and the canal, dug out every 2 or 3 years.
 - d. To consider and agree to the new pitch layout on Britten's Field and therefore note the change in pitch fees for the Ilminster Youth Football Club.
5. Members may agree and accept recommendations a and b. The Chair is Cllr Sue Osborne and the Vice Chair is Cllr Paul Sellers. There were no changes to the Recreation Ground Users Group Terms of Reference.
6. The fourth recommendation regarding the proposed football pitch layouts on Britten's Field is dealt with separately in Agenda Item 14.

AGENDA ITEM 9

7. The third recommendation emanated from a discussion regarding the draft canal management plan, and how water drains from Britten's Field. To help with the drainage and water flow in the canal, Members are asked if they would consider having the ditch, along the path between the Archie Gooch football pitch and the canal, dug out every two to three years.
8. Currently, the grounds team clear out the ditch as best they can, however, a discussion with the Countryside Manager highlighted the need to have the ditch properly dug out once every 2 to 3 years to give it a good clear out.
9. The Countryside Manager also said that it would prove useful, at the same time, to use a digger to clear ditches to assist drainage on Herne Hill every two to three years too. This will help with the ongoing maintenance of Herne Hill and could be included in the Herne Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan.
10. Prior to Members Day in October when budgets are discussed, Officers can provide the financial costs of hiring a digger to Members.
11. Members are asked to consider these recommendations emanating from the Recreation Ground Users Group meeting which was held on 11th July 2023.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
July 2023