

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday on 2 August 2016 at 6.30pm

### **OS10. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Albin, Burton, Keitch and Mackillop

### **OS11. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made in respect of matters to be considered at this meeting

### **OS12. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2016 as a correct record.

### **OS13. Wardens' Workshop**

The Committee considered the available information regarding the puddling outside the entrance to the Wardens Workshop on how to remedy the situation and the likely cost. Issues discussed during consideration of the item included:

- Will the proposed repairs to the drainage pipe stop the puddling?
- The repair needs to be done regardless of the impact on the puddling
- As the camera couldn't go all the way into the drain there may be further problems which have not yet been found
- The report makes no reference to the installation of a grid / filter / trap to collect oil etc
- The puddling situation has been getting worse for a couple of years and a number of possible options have been identified and information, including costs given to the Committee

#### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

- (i) To waive Standing Orders / Financial Regulations regarding the need to obtain 3 quotations (as various options and costings have previously been discussed by the Committee)
- (ii) To accept the quotation dated 11 July 2016 to repair the broken drainage pipe
- (iii) To approve a maximum spend of £2,500 (the quotation referred to in (ii) above plus a contingency sum) to allow for including a grid / filter / trap and any other work that may be identified during the drainage repair

### **OS14. Disposal of Surplus Sub-Soil from Constructing the New Football and Community Facility**

There is a large amount of reasonable quality surplus sub-soil from the construction of the new football and community facility. Prices have been sought for removal of the soil from site but this is likely to be costly. A suggestion has been put forward that the soil could be spread around the steeply sloped area at the southern end of Brittens' Field (which is approx 3 acres) as it would be suitable for growing grass and wild flowers and would not be to the detriment of the area. The Committee's decision regarding dispersing the sub-soil on the sloped area is requested.

Issues discussed

- Top soil for levelling pitches
- Possible spreading of sub soil on slope and wild flower seeds

- Possible ways of enhancing the “sledging slope”
- Any other open spaces areas that may need levelling
- The effect on wildlife of spreading soil on the slope at this time off year
- The weight of the soil in the mounds will increase and be more difficult to handle as it gets wetter later in the year
- The safety of vehicles traversing the slope distributing soil bearing in mind the gradient
- Who will pay - whatever happens
- Tree Officer concerns about the effects of the current soil mounds

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) To the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Mayor and Chair if the Open Spaces Committee, writes a letter to the football club that expresses the following:
  - That the Town Council wish to help but are not willing to bear any costs for moving the soil
  - Requests the weight of the soil which needs to be disposed
  - The amount it is suggested is spread over the slope site and the spreading ratio
  - When the grandstand is demolished there will be a need for soil as part of the ground reinstatement
  - When the railings and posts are removed from around the former main football pitch there will be a need for soil to fill the holes
  - Asking for other options
- (ii) That a decision is deferred until a response to (i) above is received
- (iii) That an item to update Councillors is put on the August Town Council agenda

The meeting closed at 19:10hrs