

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 10 May 2016 on the rising of the Planning, Highways and Transport meeting.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: J Fagan, J Fowler, V Keitch, D Kinder, A Shearman, S Storey, R Swann and T Walker

In Attendance

Officers: Joy Norris (Town Clerk), Sally Whitefield (Deputy Town Clerk)
Ryan Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden) arrived at 20.30

No members of the public attended the meeting.

OS79 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Albin, Burton, Drayton, Goodall, Neave, Sothern

OS80 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

OS81 Minutes

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.
- (ii) To note the action list relating to the Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised during consideration of the action list included:

Item 5 Removal of surplus materials stored at the cemetery;

Item 9 Surface matting outside the wardens' workshop - quotation requests were sent to 5 contractors with a closing date of 6 May 2016 but disappointingly only once response has been received

OS82 Report from Cemetery sub-group

The report from the Cemetery sub-group was considered.

RESOLVED to note the report

OS83 Recommendations from Cemetery sub-group

The committee considered the following recommendations:

1. That no further burial plots are sold and remaining land is used for ashes plots;
2. That the small strip of land in middle of Section J2 is used for a row of 8 ashes plots;
3. Issue a press release

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

Providing an area/memorial garden for ashes to be scattered

Constructing a memorial wall is likely to be expensive

The type of memorial to be used on the proposed ashes plots in Section J2

The need to develop a positive communication strategy

Chair's Initials

Ilminster Town Council Open Spaces Committee 10 May 2016 Minutes

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

1. That no further burial plots are sold and remaining land is used for ashes plots;
2. That the small strip of land in middle of Section J2 is used for a row of 8 ashes plots;
3. New cremation plots in Section J2 have flat headstones only
4. The development of a positive communication strategy

OS84 Future plans for a Cemetery

The committee considered options regarding the future of a cemetery in Ilminster.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

The need to investigate options to provide a cemetery before considering ceasing provision

Consulting with residents

Seeking advice from SSDC Planning Office to find out planning requirements for a new cemetery or extension to existing.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on the future of a cemetery until advice has been sought from SSDC planning office.

The Town Clerk informed the committee of the Deputy Town Clerk's resignation.

The meeting closed at 20.45pm

Chair's Signature & Date