

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster  
on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr M Gunn

Committee: Cllr V Higgins, Cllr R Swann, Cllr F White, Cllr L Wilcock

**In Attendance:**

Councillors: A Shearman, B Hamilton

Officers: Mr A Barnett (Grounds Manager) Mr S Fletcher (Admin Officer)

Mrs J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk)

1 member of the public attended the meeting and spoke prior to the meeting commencing.

**Speaker 1**

The speaker requested to speak about four items related to Town Council work. Firstly, he described the actions being taken by South Somerset District Council in order to continue essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The actions included Business Continuity workshops, and additional strategic meetings. The second item related to the Outline Planning application by Persimmon Homes which had been stopped due to continuing legal negotiations which needed to be finalised before they continue. The third item related to finding the owners of the footpath and land from Frog Lane to Tesco. The Chairman agreed to forward a related email to the speaker. Finally, the speaker asked who owned or maintained the GWR seats along the cycle path as they were looking neglected. The Town Council own them as they were donated by the Rotary Club. The groundsmen would add them to their maintenance schedule.

Fran White wanted to remind the committee of the concerns related to 5G transmitters which had been raised by a member of the public at the Town Council Meeting held on 26 November 2019. There were concerns about high levels of radiation even though OfGem had declared that there was no radiation problem. The Chairman would find evidence from OfGem which supports their claim.

**281 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Shepherd.

**282 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made regarding any items on the Agenda.

**283 Minutes**

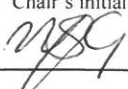
The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020 were considered.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

**284 Action Plan**

Consideration was given to the Office Action Plan relating to the Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised included:

Chair's initials  


- The canal is only 1 of 2 canals in the country with an incline. Funding may be sought to restore the canal. The details are held by the fishing club.
- The lights in the car park of the Ilminster Town Football Club are easily knocked over by cars and need to be moved to avoid this in the future.
- Memorial Gardens. The Grounds Manager gave details of what work they have undertaken so far.
- The possibility of a graffiti competition was discussed however a suitable wall would need to be identified within Ilminster.

**RESOLVED** to note the Office Action Plan relating to the Open Spaces Committee

**285 Police Report**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Police to report on any matters relevant to policing in Ilminster. Concern was raised that people need to report police matters online when there are residents who do not have access to the internet.

**RESOLVED** to note the Police Report

**286 Financial Monitoring**

The Financial Monitoring Report was considered and accepted.


**RESOLVED** to note the Financial Monitoring Report

**287 Grounds Team Report**

Consideration was given to a report on recent Grounds team work and work planned

Issues raised or discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The wood on Herne Hill now has a 14 year programme in place. Bluebells are now appearing in the wood and the team are making a compost bin there.
- The wood from the trees that fell during the recent storms has been stored for seasoning. This could be a possible income source next year. It could be advertised to members of the public on social media stating a time for collection and a price per bag.
- Consideration would be given to adding another set of steps to the incline on the east side of the recreation ground to make it easier for walkers to get up onto Herne Hill.
- Pathways through Herne Hill are very muddy and slippery from wet weather. Several ways to solve this problem have been tried, but none have been successful. The team are continuing to come up with alternative solutions.
- For Health & Safety reasons, a new flammable liquid storage facility needs to be purchased. The Chairman asked for this item to be added to the Town Council agenda.
- Green Ilminster have 120 trees for planting in Ilminster.
- Blocked pipes were found underneath the football field. These would need to be unblocked and could release a fair amount of water into the canal.
- A new noticeboard has been erected in the recreation ground.

Chair's initials  


- It was suggested that the stone for the Burma Star be raised and for the consideration of a flagpole to be added to the site. The Chairman stated that she would look at this further.

**RESOLVED To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

- (I) The purchase of a new flammable liquid storage facility.

**288 Tree Planting**

Consideration was given as to whether Green Ilminster could plant trees in West Crescent recreation ground or other areas around Ilminster. Further discussion about Winterhay Lane recreation ground highlighted that the height of the trees to the right of the playground needed to be shortened. The Chairman stated that she would find out who they belonged to and therefore the responsibility of trimming them back. She also added that the trees going up to Cold Harbour Farm all have Tree Preservation Orders on them. It was decided that the decision to plant trees in Winterhay Lane recreation ground would not be made until ownership of the current trees has been identified.

**RESOLVED** The Chairman will find out who owns the trees on Winterhay Recreation ground.

**289 Tuck Shop**

The methods of charging for utilities for the tuck shop were discussed. There should be a clear separation of the water/sewerage if a water meter was connected under the sink in the tuck shop. The electricity could be calculated by averaging the current monthly usage in the toilet block and charging the excess usage to the tuck shop. This led to a discussion of fitting sensor activated lights in the toilet block or to have them on a timer. The contractor who removed the fittings from the tuck shop without permission had previously informed the council that they would replace those items, and so this should be followed up. Fran White added that there is a 6 year limit for complaints of this nature.


**RESOLVED** Deputy Clerk to find the paperwork related to the refurbishment of the tuck shop.

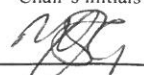
**290 Update on Wharf Lane Recreation Ground**

Slade Parry (Yeovil) has been appointed as Project Manager and Rob Parr of South Somerset District Council is adjusting the plan to accommodate the planned play equipment. The Chairman described the equipment, the plan and the schedule of works.

**RESOLVED** The report was noted.

The meeting closed at 20.55hrs

Chair's signature: .....	
Date: .....	16/07/2020

Chair's initials	
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