

Agenda 3a

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 24 May 2016 at 19.30 hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: F Albin, P Burton, R Drayton, J Fagan, J Fowler, V Keitch, A Shearman, J. Sothern, R Swann

In Attendance

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

3 members of the public attended the meeting. One spoke during the public participation session and another spoke during discussion of Agenda No 10 Wardens' Workshop.

Speaker 1

Mr Fry-Foley spoke about Experience Ilminster CIC's request to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Ilminster Midsummer Experience 2016 on Sunday 12 June 2016. This will be the 9th year of running the event. He distributed plans (attached) showing the proposed layout for events taking place on the Recreation Ground. The flags will be displayed around the Town from 29th May. If possible, he would like to arrange for a photo to be taken with the winner of the competition to design a new Town Council flag before the flag goes up. He asked whether the Town Council Clock could open on Sunday and it was confirmed that it would. Entrances for vehicles will be via the concrete drive off The Mead. Heavy horse area subject to ground being suitable. Skate park users have decided not to support the event.

OS85 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kinder and Walker

OS86 Declarations of Interest

The declarations of interest detailed in the table below were made.

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
A Shearman	7 Permission to use Recreation Ground	OS89	Personal	Knows Mr Fry-Foley and is marshalling at the event.	Spoke and Abstained from voting
A Shearman	8 Permission to Light Fires on Herne Hill	OS92	Personal	Daughter is Scout Leader	Spoke and Abstained from voting
S Shepherd	7 Permission to use Recreation Ground	OS89	Personal	Licensee of Cricket Club	Spoke and voted
V Keitch	11 Permission to use Recreation Ground	OS94	Personal	District Councillor	Spoke and voted

Chair's Initials

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RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 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 1 - Whether the press release had been done; this was a recommendation to Town Council
- Item 2 - Cllr Drayton gave an oral update of a meeting held this morning with SSDC planning department officers, David Norris and Rob Archer
- Item 4 - Whether a date for the Giant Water Slide in Britten's Field had been agreed; it will be held on 9 July 2016

OS88 Police Report

There was no police report and no policing matters were raised or reported.

OS89 Permission to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

The committee considered a request from Experience Iminster CIC to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Iminster Midsummer Experience 2016 on Sunday 12 June 2016.

RESOLVED that Experience Iminster CIC's plan and scheduled activities to take place on Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for IMEX 2016 on Sunday 12 June 2016 be approved

OS90 Wardens Report

The report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Iminster was considered.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Number of Open Spaces Staff
- A programme of maintenance is in place to replace all rotten steps at Herne Hill
- It is not planned to replace rotten fence removed at West Crescent
- The Open Spaces Team are very pleased with the new pressure washer

RESOLVED to note the report.

OS91 Dogs on Open Spaces

The committee discussed ways of taking a Dog Policy forward.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The importance of striking a balance to suit all open space users, including dog owners
- Options to protect children's play areas
- From October 2017, existing Dog Control Orders (DCOs) will become Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

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- District councils (but not parish councils) can set up PSPOs which can cover the same offences as DCOs

RESOLVED to consult with SSDC about how the new Public Spaces Protection Orders legislation will affect Town Councils

OS92 Permission to Light Fires on Herne Hill

The committee considered a request from 1st Iminster Scout Group to light small fires within Herne Hill.

RESOLVED to give permission for 1st Iminster Scout Group to light small fires within Herne Hill.

OS93 Removal of Stone and Soil from the Cemetery

The committee considered whether to accept a quotation of £650 plus £75 per load to riddle out stone from 80mm up and transport stone to Herne Hill for use on the proposed Lookout Point and remove remaining material from the cemetery for disposal. The quotation exceeds the amount the Town Clerk is authorised to spend and a budget has not previously been agreed by Council.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Who had authorised requesting a quotation for this work as Minute No OS69 (26 February 2016) stated that this would be done on a voluntary basis by councillors; the Chair confirmed that he had authorised this as the job was found to be much larger and time consuming than first realised
- How many loads will be required?
- No budget to move soil or build lookout point
- The improvements to Cemetery maintenance and the stone and soil needs to be removed to complete this work
- Stone may not be suitable for dry stone wall
- Funding could be used from unearmarked reserves
- Concern that moving the stone to the proposed lookout point without plans or budget to build it may create a further problem

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

- (i) £1,500 is taken from unearmarked reserves to move stone and soil from cemetery
- (ii) the contractor is asked to estimate how many loads will be required to move the stone and soil

OS94 Permission to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

The committee considered a request from SSDC Active Learning and Skills to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground on Monday 25 July, 1 August and 8 August 2016 between 1.30 and 3.00pm for Summer PlayDays 2016.

RESOLVED to agree to the request from SSDC Active Learning and Skills to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground on Monday 25 July, 1 August and 8 August 2016

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OS95 Wardens' Workshop

The committee considered whether to recommend to Town Council to accept a quotation to install Gridforce ground reinforcement outside the wardens' workshop or to investigate relocating the door to the gable end of the building enabling machinery to exit onto existing concrete hardstanding as an alternative solution.

The Chair presented a third alternative of using scalplings as a possible solution.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Scalplings would be visually unattractive
- Matting with grass growing through would look better than scalplings
- Scalplings would be a short term solution and will require regular maintenance
- 3 Quotations are required to meet financial regulations
- Depth of land drains
- Concrete version of matting
- Investigate improving land drains
- Whether the cricket club should be asked to contribute towards cost

The Chair took the meeting out of session at 9.00 to allow Speaker 2 to speak.

John Pallister informed the committee of an ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) ruling that there should be no puddles outside of the boundary within 30m; the Chair responded that he was unaware of this and asked for information to be forwarded to him.

The Chair took the meeting back in session 9.05

RESOLVED to obtain 3 quotations

- (i) to investigate land drains and rectify as necessary
- (ii) to install a new door to the gable end of the wardens' workshop and associated work

The meeting closed at 21.22

Chair's Signature & Date