

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 23 August 2016 at 19.30 hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: P Burton, R Drayton, J Fagan, J Fowler, M James, V Keitch, I Mackillop, A Shearman, R Swann and T Walker

In Attendance

Officers: Mr Ryan Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk), Mrs J Skinner (Administration Officer)

1 member of the public attended the meeting.

OS15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Albin, Kinder & Southern.

OS16 Declarations of Interest

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

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr P Burton	Agenda No 5 Fair Trade Signage	OS19	Personal	Attends some Fair Trade meetings	Spoke & Voted
Cllr J Fowler	Agenda No 5 Fair Trade Signage	OS19	Personal	Support Fairtrade Association & pecuniary Donated money towards signs	Spoke & Voted
Cllr V Keitch	Agenda No 5 Fair Trade Signage	OS19	Personal	ITC Rep to Fairtrade Committee	Spoke & Voted
Cllr T Walker	Agenda No 5 Fair Trade Signage	OS19	Personal	Potentially know the contractor	Spoke & Voted

The Chair took the meeting out of session at 19.43 to allow Mr Roger Gurner to address the committee.

Mr Gurner, a member of the Fairtrade Committee, explained to the committee the proposal for Fairtrade signs to be attached with hooks to the flower troughs on the entrances to the town; the hook will go over the edge of the troughs with a bracket long enough so that they are not easy to remove and will not detract from the planting. The cost of this will be looked into and, if required, planning permission will be sought from South Somerset District Council.

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RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2016 be confirmed as a correct record subject to a list of those present being added.

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- (ii) To note the action list relating to the Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised during consideration of the action list included:

- Item No. 2 – Dogs Policy. The Mayor has a meeting arranged with Street Scene at SSDC to discuss what can be done to deal with dogs fouling on the Open Spaces areas.

OS18 Police Report

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

OS19 Fair Trade Signage

Councillor's considered a request from the Ilminster Fair Trade Committee to use the Town Council's existing sign post supports on the signs at the entrances to the town, as the structural support for the Fair Trade signs.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The best place to put the Fairtrade signs would be on the front of the troughs
- The Mayor to check if planning permission is required

RESOLVED that subject to any planning consents being approved, Ilminster Town Council agree the Fair Trade signs can be affixed to the flower troughs at the entrance to the town by means of fabricated brackets.

OS20 Warden's Report

Councillors received the report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster. Work that has been done included:

- Duck weed cleared along canal
- Cut canal bank – appreciative comments received from public
- Sprayed Minster paths
- Ramp completed to enable access to disabled toilet
- Fence near children's play area removed as stakes were rotten – some negative comments / questions from members of the public
- Cleeves Close tidied up
- Tidied paths on hill
- New bench installed at Winterhay & ditch cleared
- Vandalism to tree and bench in Britten's Field – it is hoped to start refurbishment within a month. Further investigation of the Ash Tree will take place to ascertain action necessary as it is felt it will probably die and need to be cut down
- A new Open Spaces Apprentice has recently started and is doing well

Discussions on this agenda item included:

- Abuse to a dog walker by an adult angling in the Canal
- Weed spraying in the recreation ground and Britten's Field
- Wardens report – an indication of how much work the Open Spaces team do

OS21 Financial Comparison

The Committee received information about the Open Spaces Committee, income, expenditure and commitments compared with the 2016/17 budget.

No issues or questions were raised about the report.

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OS22 Annual Playground Inspection – Appointment of Contractor

Councillors considered the appointment of a Contractor to undertake the annual playground Inspection.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Timing of this year's inspection
- Costs
- May need to get prices earlier for 2017

RESOLVED

- (i) that the quotation from Company 3 for the sum of £375.00 (+VAT) is accepted
- (ii) work should start now to seek quotations for the 2017 inspections

OS23- Recreation Ground Grandstand – Demolition: Asbestos Survey

Councillor's considered setting an expenditure limit for the asbestos survey which is required as part of plans to demolish the grandstand.

Items discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Specialist nature and limited number of companies who deal with this type of work
- Time constraint

RESOLVED to

- (i) Waive any requirements in Financial Regulations and / or Standing Orders to seek a minimum number of quotations due to the specialist nature of the work required
- (ii) Obtain a formal quote from the identified interested company and if the cost is above £500.00 refer back to Committee
- (iii) Survey cost to come from the demolition budget

OS24 Feedback from Councillor's Open Spaces Walkabout

Councillors were asked to give feedback arising from their recent walkabout and identify any related issues they would like discussed at a future Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised included:

- Herne Hill is a credit to the town although it was felt it was not particularly well used and consideration ought to be given to publicising it more
- Ilminster Cemetery – stone from the wall is still to be removed

The meeting closed at 20.30hrs.

