

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: D Belobaba, P Burton, J Fagan, J Fowler, M Gunn, V Keitch, I Mackillop, R Swann and T Walker.

**In Attendance:**

Officers: Mrs D Speed (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs D Salt (Administration Officer (Information)).

1 member of the public attended the meeting.

**OS147 Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dewick and Shearman.

**OS148 Declarations of Interest.**

Councillors made Declarations of Interest as detailed in the table below

| Name          | Agenda Item  | Minute No  | Nature of Interest  | Type of Interest | Action   |
|---------------|--|------------|---|------------------|--|
| Cllr Shepherd | 11 Footpath Between The Shed and Canal Way   | 157        | President of the cricket club                                   | Personal         | Left the room when the agenda item was discussed |
| Cllr Swann    | 11 Footpath Between The Shed and Canal Way   | 157        | Member of the cricket club                                      | Personal         | Left the room when the agenda item was discussed |
| Cllr Fowler   | 10 Replacement Springer for Winterhay Lane<br>11 Footpath Between The Shed and Canal Way | 156<br>157 | Resident of Winterhay Lane<br>Social member of the cricket club | Personal         | Spoke  |
| Cllr Keitch   | 7 Ilminster Town Football Club (ITFC) Sponsor Signs                                      | 153        |   | Personal         | Spoke  |

**OS149 Minutes.**

- a) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2018 were presented for confirmation.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

- b) The action list relating to the Open Spaces committee was considered.

**RESOLVED** to note the Office Action List.

**OS150 Police Report.**

There was no police report. Replacement PCSO will be starting in July.

**OS151 Open Spaces Team Report.**

The Open Spaces Team reported recent open spaces activities in Ilminster. Highlights of the report included:

- A Senior Open Spaces Warden has been appointed and will be starting on Monday 9 April 2018.
- The market signs have been changed to the Spring version.
- All the vehicles and hand powered tools have been serviced.
- A grass maze has been cut near to West Crescent and has received positive feedback.
- A monthly maintenance plan has been compiled for the Stiga
- The Committee would like to pass on congratulations and are delighted that Mr Renn Samways has passed his driving test first time.

**OS152 Financial Monitoring.**

Information about the Open Spaces Committee, income, expenditure and commitments compared with the 2017/18 budget was considered.

Issues raised included:

- Whether the deficit of £22,000 (discussed at the previous meeting) has been reduced, at the end of the financial year virements and adjustments are always made to the budget headings in order to move any required monies from un allocated reserves;
- The temporary toilets are still on hire to the Town Council. It is intended that the toilets will be collected by the company at the earliest opportunity; the monthly charge is £483 per month.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**OS153 Ilminster Town Football Club (ITFC) Sponsor Signs.**

A request from Ilminster Sports Club was considered to override clause 18.5 of the lease to enable ITFC to display their sponsor signs for the duration of the football season.

Discussions on this agenda item included:

- The Cricket Club displays sponsor signs and takes them down after each match can the football club do the same?
- The cricket club have A frames which display the sponsors and are easy to put up and take down.
- Who are the sponsors and how much are they paying ITFC? Should the Town Council get a percentage of this revenue?
- Could stipulate what is advertised and it could generate income for the Town Council.
- This is IFTC's only source of income.
- Sponsorship was part of the original business plan.
- ITFC are asking for clause 18.5 of the lease between Ilminster Sports Club Ltd and the Town Council to be varied to enable sponsorship signs to be on display
- The signs would be displayed permanently throughout the football season. The Respect fence/line is there permanently unlike the cricket club which take the signage down because the grass needs to be cut.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council agrees that Ilminster Town Football Club may display sponsor signs on the respect fence throughout the football season with the proviso that they must be removed 2 days after the football season has finished and, that clause 18.5 of the lease will not be enforced in relation to such sponsor signs.

**OS154 Playground Inspection quotes.**

The quotations to carry out an annual play inspection were considered.

Discussions on this item included:

- Is it a legal requirement to have a playground risk assessment?

**RESOLVED** that Company A be appointed to carry out the 2018 annual playground inspection

**OS155 Quotation for Weedkilling.**

The quotations for weedkilling were considered

Discussions on this item included:

- Ask the companies for more details about what type of weed killer they are using - is it bee friendly?

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk following consultation with the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair of the Open Spaces Committee to accept the best value price (taking into consideration both cost and date the weed spraying can be undertaken).

**OS156 Replacement Springer for Winterhay Lane.**

Consideration was given to replacing the broken Springer at Winterhay Lane and approving delegated authority for the Town Clerk to purchase and have installed

Discussions on this item included:

- Do we have money in reserves to pay for this? The Deputy Clerk confirmed that there is money in the reserves to buy a springer, matting and to install it.

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with Committee Chair and Vice-Chair to spend up to £1,700 for a replacement springer and its installation (including the safety matting).

**Note:**

- (i) Cllr Shepherd circulated notes about the costs of the footpath which he then explained
- (ii) Cllrs Shepherd and Swann left the room at 20.05hrs as they had declared interests in the next agenda item - Footpath Between The Shed and Canal Way.
- (iii) With the consent of the meeting Cllr Keitch chaired Agenda Item 11 Footpath Between The Shed and Canal Way.

**OS157 Footpath Between The Shed and Canal Way.**

The Town Council had agreed in principle to the construction of a footpath between The Shed and Canal Way, with the materials being purchased by the Town Council and the labour being provided by Ilminster Cricket Club. The Committee were asked to consider the information supplied by the Cricket regarding costs

Discussions on this item included:

- Whether or not there would be some form of barrier or a “dog leg” incorporated in the design between the Rec and the Pavement



**Note:** 20.07hrs the Chair took the meeting out of session to enable the Cricket Club rep to respond  
**Speaker 1, J Pallister.**

To put in a barrier would mean going through the hedge and a gate which is listed.

**Note:** 20.08hrs the Chair took the meeting back into session

- There is no budget provision for this footpath; it could possibly be funded from ear-marked reserves which could be returned later when funds became available.

**RESOLVED** in principle to take £1,700 from the drainage fund in the ear-marked reserves which could be replaced at a later date when funds become available.

**Note:** 20:11hrs Cllrs Shepherd and Swann returned to the meeting.

### **OS158 Skatepark Graffiti.**

The possibility of a graffiti project for the skatepark ramp as a way of discouraging vandalism was discussed

Discussions on this agenda item included:

- Should we have an artistic challenge.
- We have spent £2,000 on materials to remove the graffiti.
- A person could come along and teach young people how to use spray cans
- it would be criminal damage if spray cans were misused.
- Could run a competition whereby the winning young person could decorate the end of the skatepark, design things properly and not tagging in other areas of the town.
- A similar project has been run in Castle Cary and has been successful.
- Perhaps local traders might donate paint or sponsor the event.
- Contact South Somerset District Council as Yeovil Country Park have a mural which has been done by the local community.
- Are any of the art teachers able to do this type of project.

**RESOLVED** to develop a plan for a graffiti artwork workshop

The meeting closed at 20.20hrs

