

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

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

In Attendance

Officers: Mr R Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Mrs. D Speed (Deputy Town Clerk),

No members of the public attended the meeting.

OS58. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Drayton, V Keitch & J Sothern

OS59. Declarations of Interest.

No Declarations of Interest were made regarding any of the agenda items.

OS60. Minutes.

a) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 were presented for confirmation.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 22 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

b) The action list relating to the Open Spaces committee was considered
The following issues were raised during discussion of this item:

- The Senior Open Spaces Warden explained he was waiting for a test to be carried out on the hydraulic pump to ascertain if it could be repaired or should be replaced.
- Councillor Shepherd and Drayton are working on a leaflet to be distributed regarding the Council's Dog Policy.
- Mayor and Town Clerk liaising between Town Council and District Council regarding the new Public Spaces Protection Order and how it effects Dogs in Open Spaces
- Wood for way markers had been received by the Open Spaces team and was suitable for this purpose.
- Area outside Warden's workshop monitored to see if requires further work

OS61. Police Report

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

OS62. Wardens Report.

Councillors received the report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster. The Senior Warden highlighted several activities and issues including:

- The number of benches repaired
- Refurbishment of 2 sets of steps on Herne Hill. Refurbishment of the steps leading to the Trig Point is nearly finished.
- Erected a trellis to act as a screen in the Cemetery and planted a clematis to grow over it
- Burma Star garden needs some attention
- Safety surfaces in play areas are slippery and need attention

Councillors expressed thanks to the Senior Open Spaces Warden as his final day with the Council is 1 February 2017. They felt he had enhanced the image of the Open Spaces in Ilminster during his time with the Council and was leaving it looking splendid.

OS63 Disposal of Cemetery Railings

Councillors felt the Cemetery railings were not in a good state. The brackets were corroded and the cost of refurbishment outweighed their usefulness

RESOLVED to sell to the highest bidder. If only one offer received, agreed to accept that offer.

OS64 Cemetery Records Update

The Councillors received an update on recent work regarding the Cemetery Records which included:

- Matching of burial records held in registers and computer records
- Pear mapping of Cemetery
- Exclusive Right of Burial information and keeping it up to date
- Memorial Inspection

OS65 Grandstand – Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

The Councillors received an oral report from the Deputy Clerk regarding the demolition of the grandstand. The following issues were raised:

- The Ilminster Town Football Club were in the process of obtaining quotes for the demolition of the grandstand.
- The Councillors thought the Football Club should be made aware that the area, after the demolition should be levelled and reseeded.
Any damage caused during the demolition to the Recreation Ground should be reinstated by the Football Club.

RESOLVED not to give any support towards the demolition costs of the grandstand.

- The path from Orchard Vale to The Shed will remain and at its highest point the Football club will leave the existing railings. The Football Club would like a letter discharging their responsibility for this path.

RESOLVED to send Ilminster Town Football Club a letter discharging their responsibility for the path from Orchard Vale to the Shed once demolition work was finished and any damage caused to the path during the demolition repaired.

- Councillors discussed the possible demolition of the “Standing Terrace” and tea hut and whether to undertake this at the same time as the demolition of the grandstand.

RESOLVED to ask the contractor chosen to demolish the grandstand to quote for the demolition of the “Standing Terrace” and tea hut then decide how to proceed.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

