

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held in the Council Chamber. The Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, on Thursday, 30 March 2017 at 19:30hrs.

Present:

Chair: Cllr V Keitch

Councillors: Cllr D Belobaba, Cllr P Burton, Cllr J Fagan, Cllr D Kinder, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swann and Cllr T Walker

In Attendance

Officers Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

8 members of the public attended the meeting

Speaker 1 – Craig Rice

The Cricket Club sincerely hope that demolition of the grandstand goes ahead on the timescale previously agreed. The Club has worked hard on the exterior of The Shed and is now turning its attention to the extension plan and the interior, A grant has been obtained from the English Cricket Board (ECB) which must be spent by the end of this calendar year; it is very unlikely that a similar grant would be available in the future if the current one had to be forfeited for any reason.

The Cricket Club participated fully in the Open Spaces Review Group and support the masterplan for the recreation area. The Cricket Club want to provide good facilities and a safe environment for their members in the same way as the Football Club did and build on the youth membership and participation - this is also a specific aim of the ECB

The grandstand is currently an eyesore and place for anti-social and even illegal behaviour. The Cricket Club would like to congratulate the Football Club on their new pavilion.

212. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Drayton, Fowler, James, Mackillop and Sothern.

213. 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 S Shepherd	Agenda No 5 Grandstand Wharf Lane Recreation Ground	216	President of the Cricket Club	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr R Swan	Agenda No 5 Grandstand Wharf Lane Recreation Ground	216	Vice-President of the Cricket Club	Personal	Spoke and voted

214. Minutes

RESOLVED

- (i) to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2017 as a correct record

The Town Clerk reported, as a Point of Information, regarding the Access Road to the Archie Gooch Pavilion, that a letter had been received from the land agent suggesting that the Town Council contact the land owner's solicitors regarding the permission to surface the access road.

215. Exclusion of Press and Public

Consideration was given to taking Agenda item 5 Grandstand – Wharf Lane Recreation Ground without members of the public and press present, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

RESOLVED to remain in open session

216. Grandstand – Wharf Lane Recreation Ground

Matters relating to the demolition of the grandstand, including quotations obtained by the Football Club, and make any decisions required to progress the demolition project were considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda included:

- The minute of the OS Committee which read “not to give any support towards the demolition costs of the grandstand.”
- The Town Council could help the Football Club by offering a loan to assist with the demolition costs
- That Ilminster Football Club and Ilminster Sports Club Limited (ISCL) are different organisations
- The Cricket Club & the town in general will benefit from the demolition of the grandstand
- The grandstand needs to be removed
- The amount of work already done by the Cricket Club to enhance their facilities and the proposed extension into the space currently occupied by the grandstand
- Possible damage to existing paths during the demolition which would need to be made good by the contractor

Note: the Chair took the meeting out of formal session at 19:52hrs to enable the Football Club to respond to some of the points made by Councillors and answer questions.

What is the relationship between ISCL and the Football Club? –ISCL are the tenants and run the pavilion and its facilities. ICSL gets the profit from the bars and room hire which currently goes towards the sinking funds and property maintenance etc as required by the various funding bodies. When sinking and maintenance funds etc are well established some profit it is anticipated some profits will be put into the Football Club – it is likely to be several years before this happens.

The Football club is currently funded by match fees, sponsorship and their own fundraising events. There are no membership fees for the Football Club -but there are signing on fees for players. There are 6 teams and 20-30 regular supporters

Having known for at least 2 years there would be a cost to be met by the Football Club for demolishing the grandstand why wasn't it budgeted for? Until the quotations were obtained it was not possible to predict how much money would be needed.

The information provided to Councillors has been written in layman's terms to make it easy to understand rather than in a formal accountancy format.

What avenues have the Football Club explored for funding? Once the 3 prices were obtained, as requested by the Town Council, the Football Club realised they would not have sufficient funds so contacted the Town Council to ask what options may be available.

Any loan from the Town Council should be subject to a formal agreement

The Football Club are asking for help, they are not trying to hide information and accept that the demolition is their responsibility.

The agreement of the Football Club committee will be needed for type of loan or reimbursement arrangement

Both the football Club and the Town Council recognise the importance of this job being done safely and properly

Note: The Chair took the meeting back into formal session at 20:11hrs

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Town Council will take the lead on organising the demolition including dealing examination and acceptance of quotations (which will include making good the site following the demolition) making good of the ground,
- (ii) That the Football Club will be expected to reimburse the Town Council the value of the net cost of the demolition
- (iii) That authority is delegated to Town Clerk following consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Open Spaces Committee to appoint the demolition contractor with the target completion date being 1 June 2017
- (iv) That authority is delegated to Town Clerk following consultation with the Mayor and the Chair of the Open Spaces Committee to negotiate and agree with the Football Club the schedule for them to reimburse the demolition costs.

Note: the voting on the resolution was unanimous.

The meeting closed at 20:30hrs