

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

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

**In Attendance**

Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk), Mr A Willis (Senior Open Spaces Warden),

**3 members of the public attended the meeting**

**OS77. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James, Keitch and Kinder who were unable to attend the meeting.

**OS78. Declarations of Interest.**

Declarations of Interest were made regarding the agenda items as listed below:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Nature of Interest	Type of Interest	Action
J Fowler	Agenda No 9, Summer Planting	OS85	Assisted Cottage flowers with various events	Personal	Spoke & voted
A Shearman	Agenda No 6 Request to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Ilminster Midsummer Experience	OS80	Marshall for the car event	Personal	Spoke & voted
P Burton	Agenda No 6 Request to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Ilminster Midsummer Experience	OS80	Marshall for the car event	Personal	Spoke & voted
T Walker	Agenda No 6 Request to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Ilminster Midsummer Experience	OS80	Helps to organise the lunch	Personal	Spoke & voted

Note: Cllr Walker declared this interest whilst the member of the public was speaking on the agenda item

**OS79. Minutes.**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2017 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the title of minute OS76 being amended to read "Britten's Field"

Note: the Chairman sought and received the Committee's approval to alter the order in which the items were considered from that on the agenda so that the request to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Ilminster Midsummer Experience was discussed at this point in the meeting.

Note: 19.35hrs the Chair<sup>1</sup> took the meeting out of formal session

<sup>1</sup>Minute amended in accordance with minute 93 of the Open Spaces Meeting held on 22 August 2017

**Speaker 1** Richard Beardon on behalf of the Experience Ilminster Committee.

Mr Beardon circulated a flyer and information about the events planned for Sunday to the Councillors.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Ilminster Midsummer Experience and there are some new attractions and activities planned e.g. the Suitcase Market in the Market House as well as some that have been tried and tested in previous years.

Rotary will once again be organising lunch on the rec and have taken a licence so alcohol can be served –and will be responsible for the marshalling of the licensed area.

NB Cllr Walker declared personal interest at 19:38hrs as a Rotary Member involved with organising the lunch

A very rare Brook Bond delivery vehicle has been obtained for Gary Clark, a local resident and disabled strong man competitor, to pull - this will probably take place on or near the skatepark The BBC are proposing to do a live broadcast.

On Sunday there will be supplementary public toilets provided on the Rec.

There has been good co-operation with the Warehouse Theatre and the Arts Centre and the Masonic Lodge will be holding an open day.

The banner festival will start this coming Sunday and it is anticipated that over 100 banners will be displayed

On the Saturday evening the Gledholt Male Voice Choir, who are of an international standard, will be performing in the Minster.

The Committee are grateful to the Mayor for the grant from her charity fund. Putting on the midsummer event requires lots of pieces of equipment, including banners and marquees, which have to be stored throughout the year, suggestions as to suitable available storage premises would be helpful, ready access is required but not power or lighting.

Note: 19.44hrs the Chair<sup>2</sup> took the meeting back into formal session

#### **OS80. Request to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for Ilminster Midsummer Experience**

A request from Experience Ilminster to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for activities connected with the Midsummer Experience was considered.

**RESOLVED** to grant the request from Experience Ilminster to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground for the Ilminster Midsummer Experience events on Sunday 11 June 2017

#### **OS81. (Agenda 3b) Action List relating to the Open Spaces Committee**

The action list was considered and discussion included:

- the grandstand demolition costs – a repayment schedule had been suggested by the Football club and the means of prompting the payments etc was being discussed
- Wildlife flower area – this is still an aspiration but is on hold until funding can be identified
- Advertising policy

**RESOLVED** to note the action list relating to the Open Spaces committee

<sup>2</sup>Minute amended in accordance with minute 93 of the Open Spaces Meeting held on 22 August 2017

### **OS82 Police Report**

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

### **OS83. Chairman's Announcements**

The Deputy Mayor presented the Senior Open Spaces Warden with certificates for successfully completing an ATV driving course and the Safe Use of Pesticides.

### **OS84. Senior Open Spaces Warden's Report.**

The Senior Open Spaces Warden reported recent open spaces activities in Ilminster. Highlights of the report included (take examples from report)

- Spraying tennis courts
- Strimming and cleaning the ditch behind The Incline as a goodwill gesture
- Grass cutting in all areas
- Installing bird boxes, built and donated by the Brownies
- Weeding the Burma Star Garden

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Work to clear the ditch behind the Incline – as there seems to be no official owner, the possible insurance implications and the possibility of claiming ownership
- Badgers are causing a dam effect above the Canal and some water is pooling

### **OS85. Cemetery - Plot Maintenance Service**

Charges for providing a plot maintenance service; which had been deferred from the meeting on 11 April 2017 were considered;

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Length of time for which it would be viable to offer a maintenance service
- The capacity of the Open Spaces team to provide a maintenance service, particularly if it proves to be popular

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That an offer is made to provide a maintenance service for the two existing requests based upon transferring ownership back to the Town Council and a maintenance service being provided for 15 years at a total cost of £1,500 – to be paid at the time of the ownership transfer.
- (ii) At budget setting time a review is made of the impact on staff of providing the service and consideration given to a possible expansion of the service.

### **OS86. Summer Planting**

The quotations for purchasing the plants for the summer planting schemes were considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- what is included in each price

**RESOLVED** that the order for summer planting is placed with the supplier who quoted £814.55 to include compost, fertiliser and delivery.

### **OS87. Vibration Testing of Open Spaces Equipment**

A quotation for the vibration testing of Open Spaces Equipment was considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- the importance of complying with Health and Safety Regulations

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) to accept the quotation of £552.00 (excluding VAT) for vibration testing, and basic employee training
- (ii) to accept the price of £60.00 (excl VAT) for the noise assessment to be conducted at the same time as the vibration testing

#### **OS88. Financial Information**

Information about the Open Spaces Committee, income, expenditure and commitments to 31 March 2017 was presented to the Committee.

**RESOLVED** to note the report

#### **OS89. Dog Survey**

The next steps to be taken following the closure of the dog survey consultation were considered.

Cllrs Shepherd, Fowler, Keitch and Drayton had met and looked at the completed dog survey forms; Cllr Shepherd circulated a brief note of what was considered to be the main issues raised in the responses.

Overall the responses were wide-ranging but, in common with many other places, there is a problem of dog fouling in Ilminster.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- People have dogs to keep themselves healthy
- It would be helpful to agree 3 priorities / actions for the Town Council
- Dog bins with pooh bag dispensers built in are available
- It is important to educate dog walkers of the dangers and problems by not cleaning up after their dog
- Mess on pitches especially where children play
- Press & education campaign

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the existing toddler and children's play areas should have 1 perimeter fence, in an L shape from the zip wire, with tie up posts on the outside for dogs
- (ii) That the Town Council should provide 3 additional dog bins to be located as follows: on the Canal side of Britten's Field Canal, in the Recreation Ground on the side closest to The Mead, and on the Ridge Path towards Herne Hill.
- (iii) To request South Somerset District Council to provide at least 2 dog bins in the town – suggested locations are Swann Precinct and East Street (unless the SSDC dog warden has any suggestions for locations based on previous reports)
- (iv) Purchase "Pooh Fairy" Posters for display around the Town Council's Open Spaces.

#### **OS90. Department for Communities and Local Government "Running Free" Consultation**

The Town Council's response to the Running Free consultation was considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Good to encourage people to exercise
- Facilities purchased for the use of local people should be available to them with free access

**RESOLVED** to note the consultation document



The meeting closed at 21.15 hrs

Chair's Signature and Date

