

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: D Belobaba, P Burton, J Fowler, M James, V Keitch, A Shearman, R Swann and T Walker.

In Attendance:

Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk), Mrs D Salt (Administration Officer (Information)) and Mr G Taylor (Open Spaces Warden)

OS117. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Fagan who was unable to attend the meeting.

OS118. Declarations of Interest.

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

OS119. Minutes.

- a) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 were presented for confirmation.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 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:

- Wharf Lane Rec toilet cleaning arrangements would not be progressed until all the work was complete, this would then enable an accurate quote to be given as the potential contractors would be able to access the completed toilet block.
- The football club will not be running the fireworks this year but it will be run by the Ilminster Sports Club on their behalf.

RESOLVED to note the Office Action List

OS120. Police Report.

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

OS121. Open Spaces Team Report.

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

- The Church Warden had phoned up to compliment the Open Spaces Team as the churchyard was looking good.
- Pruned roses at the Burma Star Garden.
- Reinstated the log bench on Herne Hill as it had rolled down to the bottom of the hill, it has now been staked in place.
- Cut back the entrance to the Archie Gooch Pavilion to give better visibility when pulling out onto the road.
- Chippings have been put down on the path in Britten's field to try and stop path from becoming muddy.
- Rolled the ground where the fair was to push down the wheel marks that had been left.
- Strimmed and opened up Ridge path.

- Work Plans include refurbishing the benches around the park and compiling a maintenance programme for all the machinery to keep it in good working condition e.g. sharpen blades, change filters, check spark plugs etc

RESOLVED to note the report.

OS122. Financial Comparison.

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

Discussions on this agenda item included:

- Prudence has been observed and some money will go towards training as there has been an increase in the demand for training due to new staff joining the team and a desire to do more work in-house.
- 552-6 Misc - this money was used to pay for the for the vibration testing training.

RESOLVED to note the report

OS123. Cleeves Close Report.

Consideration was given to projects to enhance the accessibility and improve the cultural and/or natural value to the area.

Discussion included:

- That there was a need to start to look forward to the budget and to think about ideas for the use of the land at Cleeves Close.
- The idea of making a woodland space would be a good opportunity to get the community and a younger generation involved it would be good to have apple trees etc so that younger people and especially children could gain more of an understanding about where food comes from and how it is grown.
- It may be possible to extend the remit of the Herne Hill Advisory group to include Cleeves Close.
- How could the area be kept safe from vandalism? It would be about good PR and promoting what is trying to be achieved in the area stressing the benefits to the community. Positive thinking in these situations is very important.
- When considering a new planting scheme no matter what it is the advice is to allow for the fact that x amount will be vandalised, x amount will not grow and x amount will grow.
- Another alternative could be a community allotment
- Tatworth have a community garden which has been very successful it would be worth talking to Tatworth to ask how they have done it and how have they managed to prevent any vandalism.

OS124. Return of fair deposit.

Consideration was given to the returning of the deposit which was taken from Herberts fair to cover any damage caused as a result of their use of the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground.

Discussion included:

- The Chairman had been down to look at the ground and in general terms it was found to be in good condition.
- The fair had been very careful in removing the equipment and most of it was winched in and out of the site.
- The site had also been walked by the Open Spaces team and it was very tidy with just a few ruts
- The area of West Crescent looked as if nobody had been there.

RESOLVED that the deposit would be returned together with an acknowledgment of how conscientious the fair had been about keeping the ground in good order.

OS125. Request to use Recreation Ground in 2018 for John Lawson's Circus.

Consideration was given to a request that had been received from John Lawson's Circus to visit Ilminster in 2018 and give approval in principle for the use of the Rec and delegated authority to the Town Clerk to confirm the dates.

Discussion included:

- Whether the circus should be accepted as a regular visitor.
- The circus brings people into the town which is good for all businesses.
- Giving the Town Clerk delegated authority to approve future visits of John Lawson's Circus

RESOLVED that

- (i) The circus would be allowed to come to Ilminster on an annual basis
- (ii) The Town Clerk is given delegated authority to agree dates for future visits of the John Lawson Circus.

OS126. Request to use Recreation Ground on Sunday 26th August 2018 for Party on the Park.

Consideration was given to a request that had been received from Ilminster Party on the Park to use the Rec on Sunday 26th August 2018.

Discussion included:

- That Party on the Park is not charged for the use of the rec as it is a service to the town of Ilminster.
- There are lots of different charities who make money from the event.
- The organisers are given the running costs of Party in the Park, but it is a not for profit organisation.
- Is there a requirement for them to apply every year so that the permission to use the rec is brought to Town Council every year.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval is given for Ilminster Party on The Park to use the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground on Sunday 26 August 2018 for Party On The Park
- (ii) that future requests for Party on the Park be delegated to the Town Clerk to approve.

OS127. Tesco Bags of Help Grants Programme – West Crescent Playground.

Consideration was given to what pieces of play equipment could be purchased for £2,000 to enhance West Crescent Playground. Discussion included:

- Confirmation that there was no time limit on when the money needed to be spent.
- Currently in the replacement fund there is £9,440 to spend on West Crescent
- The swings are in good condition but would benefit from a coat of paint
- A basket swing costs approx £3,000.
- Play companies often have really good discounts from the beginning of January and it would be advantageous to be able to be in a position to order and make use of the discounts.
- Consultation with local residents and via the schools
- The consultation process used for the Winterhay Rec
- Incorporate equipment for teenagers

RESOLVED that local residents are consulted about the types of equipment they would like to see in the West Crescent play area

OS128. Budget 2018/19.

Consideration was given to 2018/19 budget and items that the Committee may wish to include.

- Items in the current strategic plan that should continue to be included e.g. land for a cemetery, Wharf Lane Rec play area, paths around the rec,
- a running track
- using a professional fund raiser
- Currently there is no income generated from the open spaces.
- The cleaning bill for the toilets may increase when it is put out for tenders / quotations as there are more toilets
- Invest to save
- The opportunity to price for cutting the cricket ground for an adjacent village
- The Town Council buying land to provide houses to rent or self build
- A Community Land Trust
- Using the Market House for a continental style eating experience.
- Consider organising concerts and using the green space to generate income outdoor charging

The meeting closed at 20:45hrs

