

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on
7th December 2021 at 20.20 hrs, in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices,
North Street Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

Chair: Cllr M Gunn

Committee: Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr L Wilcock,
Cllr R Swann, Cllr H Lancaster, Cllr F White, Cllr B Hamilton

Officers: J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk and RFO), V Freeman (Administration
Officer)

In attendance: J Taylor (Countryside Manager), Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr I
MacKillop, Cllr A Shearman

No members of the public attended the meeting.

OS371 Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

OS372 Apologies for absence

None received

OS373 Declarations of Interest

None received

OS374 Dispensations

There were no dispensations requested or granted.

OS375 Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the meeting held on 5th October
2021 as a correct record.

Proposer Cllr Wilcock **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

OS376 Open Spaces Team Report

Members **NOTED** the report from the Countryside Manager.

Members **NOTED** the tree safety works report.

Members were advised that there are no immediate concerns regarding
the oak tree near the cricket club but the tree will continue to be
monitored and the bench has been removed as a precaution.

The Countryside Manager updated members on the success of the 2
volunteering days that have been held so far. Tasks included preparing
a section of hedgerow which the volunteers will help lay in January,
removing plastic tree guards and restoring a dead hedge.

The wildflower meadow has been seeded, more seed has been applied
for from SSDC.

Any trees affected by Storm Arwen have been made safe by a tree
surgeon.



OS377 Letters to residents

Members discussed writing a letter to residents in the area of Shudrick stream as it has been noted that green waste is being dumped in/near the stream.

Members were advised that the Environment Agency had been out clearing the stream in recent days.

Several members volunteered to hand deliver the letters.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate officers to write a letter to residents in the area of Shudrick stream to refrain from dumping green waste in any public area and to dispose of green waste through the proper channels. In addition, for Officers to arrange for an open letter to be published in local papers, on the Town Council Website and Facebook page.

PROPOSED Cllr Hamilton **SECONDED** Cllr Swann

OS378 Financial Monitoring report

Members **NOTED** the finance report.

Members discussed the sports pitches rent and the formula used to work out the rent and if there is a better way of calculating rent.

Members **RESOLVED** that the sports pitches rent charges be referred to the Licence Conditions Group to agree the rental cost which will then be brought to the Resources Committee for approval.

PROPOSER Cllr Gunn **SECONDED** Cllr Wilcock

A member asked whether the Cemetery grass cutting contract could be brought back in-house, and they were advised that as this item was not on the agenda it would be added to the next Town Council meeting agenda for discussion.

OS379 Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Meeting ended 21.02

