

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held on **5 December 2023** at  
**19.43hrs** held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster,**  
**TA19 0DG**

**Chair:** Cllr M Gunn

**Committee:** Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr S Osborne,  
Cllr S Shepherd

**Officers:** J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk), V Freeman (Administration Officer),  
J Fontana (Open Spaces Manager)

**In attendance:** There were no members of the public in attendance.  
Cllr P Sellers

**23-0052-OS Public Forum**  
There were no members of the public present.

**23-0053-OS Apologies for absence**  
Cllr J Karchud  
Cllr D Paul  
Cllr L Taylor  
The Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided.  
Cllr S Osborne sent her apologies that she may arrive late for the  
meeting due to attending another meeting first.

**23-0054-OS Declarations of interest**  
There were no declarations of interest made.

**23-0055-OS Dispensations**  
There were no dispensations requested or granted.

**23-0056-OS Minutes**  
Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes of the  
meeting held on 3 October 2023 as a correct record.  
**Proposer** Cllr Shepherd **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

**23-0057-OS Open Spaces Team report**  
Members **NOTED** the Open Spaces team report.  
Members commented on the positive feedback they have been  
receiving regarding the bench refurbishment program and the  
Burma Star Garden.  
Members discussed the bus shelter on Canal Way. Officers are  
in the process of obtaining quotes for the damage to be repaired.  
There is a possibility that the damage was caused by the wind  
and the design of the shelter and not by vandalism.  
The Chair thanked the Open Spaces team for all their hard work.  
Members asked if the tennis court usage figures could be  
included in future open spaces reports.

**23-0058-OS Financial Monitoring Report**

Member **NOTED** the report.

20.10 Cllr Osborne arrived.

**23-0059-OS Purchase of a bin**

Members discussed purchasing a litter bin for the path along Shudrick Stream.

Discussions included where to site the bin, the style of bin, the restrictions of emptying a co-mingle bin, permission of the landowner, the cost of emptying the bin, any future implications regarding Somerset Council and would litter picking be a better option.

Members decided to defer this Agenda item to the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Open Spaces meeting when further information regarding Somerset Council should be available.

**23-0060-OS Plant contract**

Members discussed the annual plant contract. Discussions included the environmental impact changing the planters twice a year and the watering, would triple planters be more efficient and easier to maintain, and would residents help out with the watering.

**A** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to obtain quotes for a new 3 year contract for plants for the troughs and hanging baskets.


**Proposer** Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Jenner-Hurford

**B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to authorise the purchase of 10 hanging baskets.

**Proposer** Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

The Open Spaces Manager and the Chair of Open Spaces to decide on the colour of the hanging baskets.

Meeting ended at 20:41

Chair	
Date	