

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 27 September 2016 at 19.30 hrs

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: D Belobaba, P Burton, R Drayton, J Fagan, J Fowler, M James, V Keitch, D Kinder  
I Mackillop, A Shearman, J Sothern, R Swann and T Walker

**In Attendance**

Officers: Mr Ryan Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk),

**2 members of the public attended the meeting.**

**Speaker 1** was the organiser of the outdoor cinema and **Speaker 2** was a representative from the Royal Airforce Air cadets.

**OS25. Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors were present.

**OS26. Declarations of Interest.**

No declarations of interest were made regarding any items on the agenda.

**OS27. Minutes.**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2016 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the correction of the spelling of Cllr Sothern's name in Minute OS15
- (ii) To note the action list relating to the Open Spaces Committee.

Issues raised during consideration of the minutes and the action list included:

- Minute OS 23 - whether or not it was agreed to waive Standing Orders
- Action List Item 1 – planning permission is not needed to put the fair trade signs on the front of the existing flower troughs on the approach roads to the town
- Action list item 4 a site meeting is being arranged with the contractor to discuss the method of soil dispersal and the best locations.

**OS28. Police Report**

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

**OS29. Wardens Report.**

Councillors received the report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster. Work that has been done included:

- Winter bedding plants have been ordered for planting at the start of November
- Burma Star garden has been weeded and wood chippings spread to deter weed growth
- Cleeves Close – the steps to Herne Hill have been refurbished and the Cleeves Close area has been strimmed and flailed.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included;

- The possibility of building ramps to improve disability access onto Herne Hill
- Weeds along Strawberry Bank are getting out of hand –South Somerset District Council usually spray this area with weed killer
- Glyphosate weedkiller is used by the Open Spaces Team, but banning its use is being considered by the European Union

- Cycle path, brambles and weeds are encroaching at least halfway over the path in many places.
- Reic sur Belon Way – where the cycle path / pavement splits is very overgrown
- Ash Tree in front of Co-op despite previous requests to make the pavement safer nothing seems to have been done
- Erosion of Shudrick Stream – bottom of Brewery Lane – the fencing has now collapsed

### **OS30. Request to use Britten's Field for Halloween Open Air Cinema**

A request to use Britten's Field for a Halloween Open Air Cinema was considered.

The Chairman took the meeting out of session 19.54hrs to enable the organiser of the open air cinema, Mr Bodgers, to speak.

Mr Bodgers said that the summer evening cinemas has been very successful and based on that the Football Club had asked if it would be possible to do something as part of the club's Halloween events. Mr Bodgers explained that if he were to show an 18 film he would need to fence off the viewing area and make sure there were stewards on all access points to Britten's Field.

The meeting went back into session at 19.57hrs

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- No problem with children event –
- Concern that children would not be taken home after the children's' film and before the 18 film would they be taken home?
- Would it be possible to have a comedy type horror film?
- Would it be possible to close off a smaller area so that there was still access onto Britten's Field for non-film goers?

**RESOLVED** not to allow Britten's Field to be closed for the purposes of an open air cinema showing an adult Halloween film on 29 October

### **OS31. Request to Plant a Tree in the Churchyard**

The meeting considered a request from the Royal Airforce Air Cadets to plant a tree in the churchyard as part of the commemorations of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Air Training Corps.

The Chairman took the meeting out of session 20:04hrs to enable Flt Lt C R Parkinson to ask for permission to plant tree and plaque in the Minster churchyard

The meeting went back into session at 20.05hrs

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) to agree that a tree and commemorative plaque may be put in the Minster churchyard to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Air Training Corps
- (ii) that the Senior Open Spaces Warden Senior Warden & Vicar agree to the position

### **OS32. Cemetery Rules and Regulations Regarding the Number of Interments Permitted in a Plot**

The committee considered whether or not the maximum number of interments permitted in a plot should be increased.

## **RESOLVED**

- (I) That the maximum number of interments permitted in a full size, double depth, burial plot be 2 burials and up to 6 sets of ashes provided that sufficient accurate information is held to be able to reasonably judge that no human remains will be disturbed nor any offensive soil removed
- (II) that in any cases of doubt the Town Clerk should refer the matter to the Open Spaces Committee or
- (III) if the matter is urgent for the Town Clerk to make a decision following consultation with the Mayor, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Open Spaces Committee.

### **OS33. Wharf Lane Recreation Ground Public Toilets**

To consider whether the toilets should be replaced like for like or whether the Council has aspirations to make changes and improvements and, if the latter, to consider setting up a working group to make recommendations regarding the changes.

**RESOLVED** that a working group comprising Councillors Belobaba, Drayton, Fagan, Fowler and Shepherd be set up to make recommendations regarding the future layout

### **OS34. Access to Britten's Field**

To consider approving the installation of a footpath (2m wide) for a distance of approximately 45 meters between the canal bank at the Archie Gooch Pavilion (route approved by the Town Council 8 January 2014) (To Follow).

- Always been used as footpath
- It is important not to bear in mind the overall plan for putting paths in the recreation area and Britten's Field Not doing things piecemeal
- The path is used by mobility scooters, dog walkers,
- Need something as a temporary measure

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the preferred option, at the present time as a temporary measure, is for a path of self-binding gravel with timber edge
- (ii) that prices are sought and reported back to the Committee

### **OS35. Entrance to Warden's Workshop**

The Town Clerk and Vice-Chair of the Committee provided an update on the work to prevent puddling at the entrance to the Warden's Workshop and to provide a wash-down area for the Open Spaces machinery. The key points of the report were:

- the work to repair the broken drain close to the Wardens' workshop has been completed
- The area where the perforated pipe is located, near the Workshop roller door, has been temporarily backfilled.
- It is suggested that a concrete platform, linked to the existing concrete area be installed. The concrete area will be large enough to wash down a vehicle. The concrete will be slightly angled so water runs to the centre where there will be a sump to collect any oil, grass etc that is washed off the equipment. The sump will be linked to alarm which will sound when the sump needs emptying.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Concern about use of concrete - has been avoided previously
- Distance of the suggested concrete washdown area from cricket boundary line
- Possibility of green concrete - would look better

**RESOLVED** that quotations should be obtained for a washdown area.

#### **OS36 Financial Comparison**

The meeting received information about the Open Spaces Committee, income, expenditure and commitments compared with the 2016/17 budget.

The meeting closed 20:51hrs