

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee** held in the Council Chamber, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at 7.30pm

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Shepherd

Councillors: P Burton, 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 R Gold (Senior Open Spaces Warden), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk),

No members of the public attended the meeting.

OS50. Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Drayton.

OS51. Declarations of Interest.

No Declarations of Interest were made regarding any of the agenda items.

OS52. Minutes.

a) The draft minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2016 were presented for confirmation .

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2016 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:

- Several items on the action list had been duplicated
- Banners advertising events were frequently being hung on the railings on the junction of Canal Way and The Mead
- The winter planting of the flower troughs along Strawberry Bank had been well received

OS53. Police Report

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

OS54. Wardens Report.

Councillors received the report from the Senior Open Spaces Warden about recent open spaces activities in Ilminster. The Senior Warden highlighted a number of activities and issues including:

- Leaf clearance
- Clearing damaged trees in wooded areas (away from paths)
- Wood chipping
- Removal of moss and weeds for the tennis courts
- The hydraulic pump on the tractor requires attention
- The recent heavy rain has affected some entrances to the Recreation Ground

Issues raised during discussions on the agenda item included:

- The branch trimming of trees near the Canal

RESOLVED

- (i) That attempts are made to get 3 estimates for repairing the hydraulic pump on the tractor;
- (ii) That expenditure up to £1,300 for repairing the hydraulic pump on the tractor is approved.

OS55. Herne Hill – Implementing the Management Plan

The Open Spaces Warden (Temporary) presented a report on the work that has recently been done on Herne Hill and what is planned for the coming months.

RESOLVED that a report be prepared for presentation to a future meeting on possible projects and the management of Cleeves Close

OS56. South Somerset District Council Consultation on a Proposed New Public Spaces Protection Order for Public Land across South Somerset

The South Somerset District Council consultation on a proposed Public Space Protection Order for public land across South Somerset was considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- There are problems of dog fouling in Swan Precinct and Ditton Street
- Enforcement Officers cover a wide geographical area
- Could signs about dog fouling be improved?

RESOLVED to respond to the consultation saying

- (i) that the Town Council supports the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order for public land across South Somerset and
- (ii) that due to persistent dog fouling in Ilminster the Town Council is currently discussing whether additional measures are required

OS57. Budget 2017/18

The potential income and expenditure for 2017/18 was considered and suggestions made for inclusions in the budget papers that will be considered by the Town Council at the budget setting meeting in January 2017.

Discussions on this agenda topic included:

- it is not sustainable to keep cutting earmarked reserves
- the need to plan for future years and items that will require replacement
- cemetery walls and paths need attention
- local people would appreciate the cushioning effect of taking money from reserves even if it is only possible for 1 year

RESOLVED that the Committee's guidance for the Open Spaces 2017/18 budget is that the overall contributions to earmarked reserves are to be reduced, specifically:

- (i) that the items listed in a) to l) below are subject to a reduction in contribution to the earmarked reserves from the 2017/18 budget and where stated have funds vired from the existing reserve fund to the 2017/18 budget:
 - a) Vehicles and Attachments (lines 20-26 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx. £2,000
 - b) Machinery (lines 27a _36 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx. £1,500
 - c) Health and Safety and Furniture (lines 40 to 71 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx £2,000

- d) Council Sheds (lines 91-93 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx. £2,000
- e) Toilet Maintenance (line 94 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx £1,000
- f) Tennis Courts (lines 95- 99 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx £1,000
- g) Canal (lines 100 - 102 of the reserves working paper) no allocation for 2017/18 and contribute £4,655 from the existing earmarked reserve to the 2017/18 budget
- h) Britten's Field (line 103 of the reserves working paper) no allocation for 2017/18
- i) West Crescent (lines 104 -106 of the reserves working paper) no allocation for 2017/18 and contribute £2,000 from the existing earmarked reserve to the 2017/18 budget
- j) Winterhay (lines 108-112 of the reserves working paper) no allocation for 2017/18 and contribute £408 from the existing earmarked reserve to the 2017/18 budget
- k) Churchyard (lines 117 - 120 of the reserves working paper) reduce contribution by approx. £1,000
- l) Cemetery (lines 121 – 128a of the reserves working paper) no allocation for 2017/18 and contribute £642 from the existing earmarked reserve to the 2017/18 budget
- (ii) That contributions to the earmarked reserves listed below are as detailed in a) to e) below
 - a) Tools £170 (lines 37 - 38 of the reserves working paper)
 - b) Mobile Phones £30.00 (line 39 of the reserves working paper)
 - c) Recreation Ground £10,434 (lines 72 - 90 of the reserves working paper)
 - d) All Boundary Fencing and Hedging (lines 113-114 of the reserves working paper)
 - e) Herne Hill £ £200.00 (lines 115-116 of the reserves working paper)
- (iii) That the position regarding earmarked reserves is kept under review but in principle the plans for allocations in 2018/19 and 2019/20 should be restored to the 2015/16 levels with an appropriate allowance for inflation.

The meeting closed at 20:41hrs

Chair's Signature and Date