

CEMETERY WORKS LIST

25.08.1995	Repairs to wall – J V Baker	£1292.00
11.06.1996	Geological survey – Lesley Aitchison	£38.00
20.04.1997	Repairs to boundary wall – W Coombes	£936.00
29.11.1997	Digging of test holes – Peter Parfitt	£178.00
06.01.1998	Cemetery wall (25 metres?) alongside road damaged by BMW crashing into it – claimed on insurance.	
05.05.1998	Repairs to wall and railings re above - Sibleys	£2846.00
26.08.1998	Cemetery wall (8 metres?) alongside road – damage Assumed to be caused by vehicle crashing into it – claimed on insurance	
25.11.1998	Repairs re above – J V Baker	£528.00
20.11.1998	Repairs to boundary wall at bottom of cemetery. Re-fix of railings, cast concrete copings to wall. Patch walling repairs and buttress – Sibleys (paid Singleton Bequest?)	£4670.00
25.11.1998	Repairs to Cemetery Walls	
14.01.1999	Survey, plot layout and planting plan – Environs	£435.86
14.02.2000	Pathway – Sibleys	£2997.00
28.03.2001	Rebuilding 13 metres of wall – J V Baker	£3150.00
25.03.2002	Works to cemetery wall – J V Baker	£2000.00
02.07.2002	Repairs to wall (southern?) – Sibleys	£3052.00
20.12.2002	Repairs to wall – J V Baker	£2765.00
30.09.2003	Repairs to wall (Northern?) – Sibleys	£6820.00

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 18 October, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Chairman: Cllr R Swann

Councillors: Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr S Sainsbury, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr J Sothorn, Cllr E J Taylor, Cllr L Vijeh, and Cllr A Weisse.

Non-councillors: Mr T Goverd

Officers: Mr A Jones, Mrs R Hope, Mrs J Thorne

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs, Maylor, Miles, Whaites, Mr and Mrs Wells and Mr Holtom

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Herne Hill

(a) Minutes of the Previous meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Herne Hill Steering Committee meeting held on the 22nd February be approved and signed as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Mr Goverd complimented the Wardens on their work that had opened up the hedge towards the Donyatt gate. He also commented that keeping the covenants for Herne Hill may prove to be increasingly difficult.

(c) Work Programme

The Open Spaces Warden reported they had used a tree climber to cut down large over hanging branches and thinned out a few trees and broken limbs. The branches had been chipped and put onto the pathways. The trig point had been cleared and was now a feature.

It was hoped to lay a section of hedgerow and training was due to be completed on hedge laying. Another section of hedge at the Fir Pound and on the Ridge path would be cut back and replanted. A section of hazel was due to be coppiced and it was intended to clear brambles to encourage the bluebells.

Cllr Taylor asked if the five conifers had been removed. The Warden replied he was waiting for a quote for a tree climber

Mr Goverd commented that there were many acorns but not many nuts this year, he would recommend that coppicing should take place between 15 and 25 years.

(d) Management Plan Review

Mr Goverd suggested that it would be useful to zone the hill when considering future management. He reported there were now three badger setts on the hill.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

The Open Spaces Warden asked if a ten year plan could be drawn up for the care of the hill that reflected how the hill should be maintained such as priorities for wildlife.

The Committee asked if Somerset Wildlife Trust could be asked for their opinion and whether it would be appropriate to seek the view of residents as part of the Vision document.

4. Minutes of the Previous Open Spaces Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 6th September be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

Cllr Vijeh arrived at 8.08pm

6. Warden's Report

The Warden reported that they had painted the gates at the Minster and repaired a broken edging stone on one of the gateways.

The football posts have been put up, all the summer planting had been removed and winter planting was now taking place. The hitch on the gangs had broken and had taken ten days to repair, the gangs had been left out on the field during this time, which had resulted in complaints from the public. A tree near the Pavillion had been fenced off due to a wasps nest.

The District Tree Officer, Philip Poulton, had visited and confirmed that the two horse chestnuts had canker and needed to be removed. The root system would also need to be removed as much as possible to prevent other trees being infected. Canker was also confirmed in the two poplar trees behind the pavilion and these would be removed in due course. Philip Poulton commented that although the two sweet chestnuts were split the damage did not require them to be felled, though he did recommend removing two cedar trees that were crowding native trees nearby. Advice had been received on the Yew trees at the Minster, with a further visit scheduled to review the trees along the canal bank once the undergrowth had been removed. A quote for a tree climber to remove the trees would be sought.

New bins and bases had been fitted at Listers Hill bus stop, top of North street, West street by the chip shop and the toilet block on the Recreation ground. New bins had also been fitted in wharf Lane, outside the Cricket Pavilion and by the picnic tables near the tennis courts.

The contractors building the new surgery had covered the concrete base where the green shed had been. It has been sown with grass seed and is much improved. The ash roots near the tennis courts have been removed.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

The fair left very little mess, though they had left their bags of rubbish.

Four metal benches on the Recreation ground had been repainted and the seat at the Minster had been stained. Broken fences around the toddlers play area and BMX track had been repaired

Day to day there was a lot more paperwork with a number of issues such as the MUGA, skate park, safety surfaces, football stadium, work duties and future budgeting for open spaces.

7. Tree Planting

Cllr Swann reported that he had been contacted by the Lions Club offering 26 trees for the Jubilee year as part of a nationwide project. Rotary had suggested that a total of sixty trees be planted for the Jubilee. Before sites for tree planting were agreed confirmation of the Lions Club trees was required, in the meantime it was felt that sites in the hill could be agreed or the boundary of the new surgery. Consideration was also given to purchasing a single tree for the Jubilee.

The Warden asked if he could replace the trees that were due to be cut down on the Recreation ground, he suggested five assorted cherries, a green oak and an Indian bean tree. It was agreed to purchase a single tree for the Mayors tree planting. The public should be notified why the trees were being felled and that they would be replaced in 2012.

8. Skate Park

The Clerk reported that she had met with Adrian Moore and a manufacturer regarding the skate park and MUGA. She had the details of a funding consultant who would seek grants for the project though there was a cost implication for this. Community Grants papers had been received and she had visited the MUGA at Kingsbury Episcopi and was due to visit another MUGA at Paignton

Cllr Miller asked if there had been any progress on the 106 money and was told the Clerk was still awaiting information.

9. Play area

(a) Safety Surfacing

The Clerk reported that the surface under the swings needed replacing and she had obtained several quotes to replace an area of 48 square metres.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the most cost effective quote should be pursued

(b) Toddler Play Area gate

The clerk reported that it had been recommended that the gates in the toddler's play area needed replacing with gates that would automatically close.

R. Swann

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to purchase two gates with internal hinges in post at a cost of £738 per gate and delivery to be as cost effective as possible

10. Recreation Ground usage

Cllr Miller commented that it would not be practical to have a single policy for all eventualities of Recreation ground usage, each application should be judged on its own merits.

The Clerk also informed Councillors of the wording of the official documents relating to the Council's Open Spaces.

Regarding the application to have dog training on an open space. It was agreed that the preferred venue was West Crescent and that the trainer should be asked to pay £10 per session. The Clerk was asked to confirm that the trainer had appropriate insurance and that the agreement would be withdrawn should the area not be suitably cleaned after each session.

Cllr Vijeh left at 9.05pm

11. Benches

- The Clerk informed the Committee of a proposal to have future seats made in the same style, with precast metal ends and wooden seating. A manufacturer had been sourced who would supply seats at a cost of £310 per seat. Once in place these seats had the advantage of being easy to repair by the Open Spaces Wardens.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the purchase of new seats should be those with precast metal ends and wooden seating.

It was agreed that Swanmead Community School should be approached for permission to site a new seat outside their main entrance and that memorial benches should only be replaced when they have been vandalised. Memorial benches that were no longer fit for purpose should be removed.

12. Cemetery

The Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place with Cllrs Cemetery working party and the Open Spaces wardens at the Cemetery to discuss solutions to the issues regarding the lower wall.

She had written to Dillington Estates to ask for permanent agreement for access from the road to the proposed gate way in the Cemetery. She was also seeking quotes for cutting down the trees and for removing the soil.

Cllr Miller asked if before the trees were cut down, whether it could be ascertained if they had damaged the wall.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

It was agreed that full costings should be brought to a future meeting.

13. Canal

A majority of Councillors present agreed to volunteer to clear the undergrowth along the canal. It was agreed that small groups would be the most effective and that they would arrange suitable timings. The Open Spaces wardens would take away the undergrowth that had been removed.

14. Football Stand

The Clerk reported that she had had a meeting with Mr Fish of the football club and that it had been agreed that the best option for the stand was to remove it. It was hoped that this could be done during the week and before matches took place at the weekend. Mr Fish was concerned whether there would be enough help during the week to remove the stand. Cllr Pallister suggested that he could help and that maybe one of the Wardens could also help as a gesture of goodwill from the Council

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the football stand should be removed by 9 January 2012, an Open Spaces Warden would be available for two days, provided there were two other volunteers also present.

15. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk reported

(a) that the Wardens shed had been broken into the previous night with several items of equipment being removed. The police and insurance company had been informed, the police had recommended alarmed padlocks. The stiga had since been found in a local field.

(b) the Cricket and Football clubs had almost completed the electrical work that had been required.

(c) she had received a letter detailing the Somerset Electoral Review. The consultation process ran until 14 November 2011

(d) Highways had agreed to deliver bags of de-icing material directly into the town

(e) Ditton Street was due to be closed from Monday 7 November for up to five days during off-peak hours. The Clerk was asked to clarify if this would affect pedestrian access and whether the paving stones were also due to be repaired

The meeting closed at 10.07pm

R. Swain
Signature

Tues 29 Nov
Date



()

()

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ILMINSTER ON TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2003 AT 7.30PM

Those present :

Chair : Cllr M Excell

Councillors : Cllr G Childs, Cllr M Henly, Cllr A Kennedy, Cllr D Miller, Cllr L Norris, Cllr S Park, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr N Simpson, Cllr A Tucker, Cllr K Turner, Cllr P Whaites

Officers : Mr S Fisher, Mrs C Holtom

1 Public Question Time

None.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in the M.U.G.A.

3 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Campbell and Rawstorne.

4 Minutes of previous meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2002 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 5 (11) - Budgets

The Clerk said he met with the District Council's Historic Buildings Officer to discuss any work which might need doing on the Market House. The Officer provided a list of people who are competent to suggest what sort of work would be appropriate and the contractors to do it. The Clerk suggested that he obtain a programme of work and a time scale, although no immediate works are absolutely necessary. Cllr Miller offered to show the contractors list to the Chief Conservation Officer at SCC for his suggestions on a possible suitable contractor. This was agreed.

Minute 7 - Children's Play Area

The Clerk said he should have up-dated quotes for play equipment available by the next meeting. The SMP are holding a Seminar about children's play equipment at Taunton on the 18th February from 9.45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Minute 9 - Skate Park

The Clerk reported that the damage to the grind rail and half pipes has been repaired.

Minute 10 - Recreation Ground

The Clerk stated that about 18 months ago he discussed with the Environment Department at SSDC the possibility of newts in the Incline ditch and as far as they could see there was no problem and no ecological reason why the work on the ditch could not be done.

Minute 15 (b) - Members Questions (Shirt Factory, Shudrick Lane)

There was discussion about the premises and the fire risk. The Clerk was asked to speak to SSDC about making the building safe. He was also asked to find out the asking price for the property.

6 Warden's Report

The Clerk presented the Warden's report.

Herne Hill: Mr. Kemp and Mr. Dunning have marked a number of trees which will be coppiced or taken down. They agreed some dead hedging which is required on the northern boundary and the continued planting of hazels across the Hill; also they planned to put in some additional trees such as buckthorn, dog wood, cherry plum and blackthorn.

Brittens Field: a new seat has been installed, near the entrance, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Taggart.

Children are making jumps for bikes in the Hill and have damaged some healthy trees. The holes have been filled in and reinstated. The signs about not digging holes, and hand rails, have been removed. It is difficult to stop the vandalism because it happens at weekends.

The electricity meter box at the Clubhouse entrance was ripped off its pole and the Electricity Board repaired it at 11 o'clock one evening.

The dog and litter bins are now in place along the cycle path.

Drains by the Clubhouse are working well and paths at the Cemetery have been repaired - this work was done by the Wardens.

Christmas trees have been shredded and the residue put on paths.

The life belt at the Canal was stolen about 2 weeks ago but has since been found by Mr. Kemp. The Clerk said that when a tree was taken down outside of the Library a replacement was suggested. Mr. Francis Jones of SSDC would be happy to do this - either a Mountain Ash or a Pyrus Chanticleer was suggested. The Committee agreed to accept the Pyrus Chanticleer which is a non fruiting variety of pear. The Chairman was concerned that if the stump from the previous tree had not been removed it might contract honey fungus, and she asked the Clerk to investigate.

Cllr Henly said that the dog bins on the cycle way are being used frequently and therefore require emptying more often.

7 Vandalism

Cllr Henly asked whether there was anything the Council could be doing to prevent vandalism occurring in the town. He said that he would like to see a post box set up or a phone number which the public could ring to report incidents of vandalism, rather than ringing the Police. He suggested advertising this in the next Newsletter.

Cllr Shepherd suggested Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Cllr Simpson suggested keeping a log in the office of reported incidents. Cllr Whaites was concerned that incidents should still be reported to the Police. The Chair was also concerned that the public might start using the office

to report crimes which should go direct to the Police. Cllr Shepherd suggested that in the Newsletter the Police number at Portishead should be published.
The Committee agreed to a log book on vandalism being kept in the office.
Cllr Turner suggested contacting the local schools about the vandalism occurring on Herne Hill.

8 M.U.G.A.

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest.

The Clerk gave an update on the current position. He said that the critical matter is the funding and there is more likelihood of obtaining funds now from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) operated by SCC than there was a month ago. The hope is that the project will go ahead before the end of this summer.

There was some debate about the £35,000 promised by the Town Council and it was felt that there was need for further discussion on this matter.

9 Astro turf Facility

The Clerk gave an update on the current position. He investigated the possibility of obtaining the field to the West of Brittens Field and it seemed that SCC would be prepared to consider helping the Town Council to obtain this facility for the town.

The Committee felt that the Youth Football Club should be doing more to help itself get an astroturf facility rather than leaving the Town Clerk to do all the investigating.

The Clerk felt that he would like to continue investigating the possibility of obtaining the above mentioned piece of land and the Committee agreed to this.

10 Public Convenience Provision in Area West

The Chair said that at the Area West meeting which she and Cllr Turner attended the committee had been very receptive and supportive of the Town Council's case. The outcome of this is that there is to be an informal meeting on Tuesday 28th January at 6 p.m., in the Council Chamber, with District Councillors Gooding and Murdoch and Mr. Roger Meecham of SSDC. The meeting has been requested by SSDC and will be Chaired by Cllr Gooding. They would like three or four representatives from the Town Council to attend. The following were selected to attend: Cllrs Excell, Turner, Whaites and Park.

It was pointed out that any decision will have to be debated by the full Town Council.

11 Cemetery Walls

The Clerk reported that about 30 metres of Cemetery wall which fell on to property had been made safe. He spoke to J. V. Baker whilst they were working on the opposite wall and in order to complete the damaged section properly they would need to take down and rebuild at least another 2 metres on the road side. The total length which needs rebuilding is about 25 metres. The Clerk gave details of amounts in the budgets for the Cemetery. Cllr Childs felt that the wall was too high and it was agreed that the height would be reduced by at least a foot. Also he said some trees are under-mining the wall. Following discussion it was agreed to hold a site meeting at the Cemetery on the 31st January at 1p.m.

Cllr Tucker left the meeting at 9.12 p.m.

The Clerk referred to a quote for repairs already done by J. V. Baker and said that they had to do extra demolition, wall rebuilding and coping which resulted in an extra £165 cost. He asked

for permission to pay this. Following discussion it was agreed that the £165 be paid.

12 Ilminster in Bloom

The Chair said she would be holding a meeting soon with the Clerk in order to sort out the painting competition, certificates etc, troughs and planting.

Cllr Shepherd asked if a letter could be sent to Gooch & Housego about sponsoring Ilminster in Bloom again.

13 Equipment

The Clerk said that the Flail was purchased in 1984 and now needs replacing; the spare parts are obsolete. It would cost about £5000 for a replacement with a different type of machine.

Cllr Simpson suggested replacing with another Flail as this would be more suitable for the work required; however it would cost more to do this.

Following discussion the Committee agreed that the machine needs replacing with the proviso that the Clerk and some Councillors investigate a suitable piece of equipment if possible by the time of the next meeting. Cllr Simpson to be involved in the discussion. Also the Clerk was asked to approach SSDC about a possible grant.

14 Correspondence and Town Clerk's Report

(a) The Clerk reported that the hedge along Canal Way and landscaping at the Station Road development will be commencing in February.

(b) The Clerk stated that the Traffic Orders for Wharf Lane will be advertised in the press next week.

(c) The Clerk reported that the parking restrictions along Station Road, to complement the new pavements, will be as originally put forward by SCC.

(d) Copies of letters from David Laws MP to the Chief Constable were received. Mr. Laws would not support any increase in the Precept for Avon & Somerset Police unless there was also an increase for East Somerset.

15 Members Questions

(a) Cllr Simpson reported that last weekend there were cars parked by the Council's shed on the Recreation Ground and this area seems to be increasingly being used as a car park; he asked if something could be done to sort out the parking at the Cross because the road becomes blocked there.

(b) Cllr Norris reported a lot of pot holes in Wharf Lane.

(c) Cllr Henly asked (i) Councillors to look at the condition of the Tulip tree in North Street; (ii) if another Riec-sur-Belon sign could be erected at the Station Road development; and (iii) what was happening as a result of the Council's non-acceptance of the East Street scheme.

(d) Cllr Whaites reminded members about the Licensing Hearing.

(e) Cllr Turner reported Christmas trees being left in Swan Precinct, which the Clerk had already dealt with; also she asked if the dog litter bags could be collected from a different place - such as the Warden's shed - as they are left by a public footpath at present.

(f) Cllr Miller reported a footpath at the East end of the town, near the town sign, being overgrown and difficult to walk.

(g) Cllr Childs asked (i) whether the Wardens could check whether the ditch in Brittens Field is running freely; (ii) could consideration be given to planting trees between the boundary fence to the Recreation Ground and the cycle way at Canal Way.

(h) Cllr Park reported (i) that the 20 mph sign in Ditton Street is facing the wrong way and (ii) a water leak in Station Road, near the Shrubbery.

(i) Cllr Excell reported that BT have decided to close down some public telephone boxes, including the one near the top of Listers Hill.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

Cllr. Excell
11 March 2003

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ILMINSTER ON TUESDAY 1st APRIL 2003 AT 7.30PM

Those present :

Chair : Cllr P Whaites

Councillors : Cllr N Campbell, Cllr G Childs, Cllr M Excell, Cllr M Henly, Cllr A Kennedy, Cllr D Miller, Cllr A Murdoch, Cllr L Norris, Cllr S Park, Cllr M Rawstorne, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr N Simpson, Cllr A Tucker, Cllr K Turner

Non Councillors : Dist Cllr D Gooding

Officers : Mr S Fisher, Mrs C Holtom

1 Opening Prayer

2 Public Question Time

Questions were received from Mr. A. Day and Mr. J. Mitchell.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr D. Gordon.

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shepherd declared a personal interest in Minute 9 of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 18th March 2003 (Minute 11).

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in Minute 7 (MUGA grant) of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 18th March 2003 (Minute 11).

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25th February 2003 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising

None.

7 Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Gooding had no report but did take questions.

Cllr Excell asked him if it were true that the former Frederick Theak factory in Shudrick Lane had been sold to a developer who is proposing to turn it into sheltered accommodation. Cllr



Gooding said he had no knowledge of this.

Cllr Henly asked what was happening about the path from Butts to Blackdown View. Cllr Gooding said the Town Council would soon be getting a letter about the possibilities of getting the wall repaired, in the public interest.

Cllr Turner asked what happens about street cleaning in the town at weekends. Cllr Gooding said that the Department which deals with it is very short staffed at the moment and they have experienced difficulties with outside contractors.

8 Report from Somerset County Councillor

No report as Cllr Gordon was not in attendance.

9 Minutes of Open Spaces Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2003 be received.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Recommendations be approved as follows:

- (1) Subject to further discussion the scheme for a new Sports Clubhouse and adjoining facilities on the Recreation Ground be supported in principle.
- (2) Putting up to £1000 towards the felling of the two Poplar trees on the Springfield Bank.
- (3) Acceptance of the tender from Sibley Brothers for work on the Cemetery wall.
- (4) Accepting the quote from Deane DLO for summer and winter planting 2003/2004.
- (5) Purchasing a Flail Mower from Loxston Garden Machinery.

10 Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th March 2003 be received.

11 Minutes of Finance & Policy Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 18th March 2003 be received and that the Recommendations be approved as follows:

- (1) Accepting the paper on Renewals and Provisions with some textual amendments and allocating those items not identified to Renewals or Provisions to separate contingency funds for Administration and Open Spaces.
- (2) Confirmation of the allocation of £30,000 by Ilminster Town Council towards the Multi Use Games Area project for Swanmead School subject to previous conditions.
- (3) To provide £500 towards the Reception for the French visitors on the 15th June 2003 subject to approval of the guest list and the invitations being issued by the Town Council.
- (4) Recommend, in principle, dependent on cost and location, the provision of a town notice board in the Station Road area.

Cllr Shepherd declared a personal interest in Minute 9 (Riec-sur-Belon).

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in Minute 7 (MUGA grant).

12 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

- (a) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr Childs reported that the Annual General Meeting was held recently and the committee has £3000 in hand.

(b) ILMINSTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cllr Henly reminded members about the Table Top Sale to be held on Saturday and said that the Mayor would be judging the painting competition.

(c) TRIPARTITE

Cllr Excell reported on a special meeting held at Chard concerning Emergency Planning. As a result of the meeting a form is to be completed with relevant contact names and phone numbers.

(d) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cllr Excell reported on the last meeting. She said that a new town guide should be available by the summer and the Victorian Evening will be on the 21st November. The Chamber would like a list of Council meeting dates.

(e) DONYATT INITIATIVE

Cllr Rawstone said that at the last meeting a Constitution was drafted and various public bodies have a representative on it.

(f) MEETING HOUSE

Cllr Campbell reported on the last meeting and said that a good Art Fair sale was held last Friday and a lot more people are asking for information about the Meeting House.

The Mayor asked for an addition to the list of Outside Bodies - Primary Care Trust - and the Council agreed.

(g) PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Cllr Campbell said that he and Cllr Murdoch are members of the South Somerset Primary Care Trust. He referred to a document given to all members, which contained a questionnaire, and he urged Councillors and members of the public to complete it. Cllr Henly asked about funding and Cllr Campbell said money would be raised by Government capital funding.

13 Mayor's Communications

The Mayor reported that he had attending the following functions:

15th March - Wells Cathedral for retirement of the Dean of Wells.

23rd March - Wells Cathedral for the legal service for the new High Sheriff of Somerset.

14 Correspondence/Town Clerk's Report

(a) The Clerk said he had received informatin about Quality Parish Councils and the main document would be out in June.

(b) The Clerk informed the Council that Mrs. Coles is leaving Cemetery Lodge this week and going to live in Muchelney House. He asked members to give some thought to the future of the Lodge.

(c) The Clerk reported that he had been informed today that 16 people have put their names forward for election to the Town Council.

15 Authorisation of Accounts

It was RESOLVED that the accounts listed in the Schedule, totalling £49548.03, be approved for payment.

16 Members Questions

- (a) Cllr Rawstone asked members to consider siting a notice board on the Spar Shop wall.
- (b) Cllr Shepherd complimented the developers for their planting of the roundabouts in Station Road and asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to them.
- (c) Cllr Park asked how many taxis are allowed to park outside of Leos as well as in the taxi rank.
- (d) Cllr Excell said she would like to be assured that the trees which the Meeting House have taken down will be replaced by like for like and that the gates will be replaced.

17 Next Cycle of Meetings

Members agreed that there was no necessity to hold a further Council meeting on the 29th April. The remainder of the dates were noted.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

Plt. Excell.
13/5/03

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ILMINSTER ON TUESDAY 4th MARCH 2003 AT 7.30PM

Those present :

Chair : Cllr M Excell

Councillors : Cllr N Campbell, Cllr G Childs, Cllr M Henly, Cllr A Kennedy, Cllr D Miller, Cllr S Park, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr N Simpson, Cllr K Turner, Cllr P Whaites

Officers : Mr S Fisher, Mrs C Holtom

1 Public Question Time

A question was asked by Mr. M. Henly.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Norris and Rawstorne.
The Chair asked for an addition to the agenda - Skate Park. This was agreed.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in Minute 9 - M.U.G.A.

4 Minutes of previous meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 21st January 2003 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 6 - Warden's Report - Library Tree

The Clerk said he had spoken to Mr. Francis Jones of SSDC about the dangers of honey fungus and had been informed that it is by no means inevitable that the tree stump is infected. He therefore advised planting another tree. Cllr Henly asked if the Wardens could treat the tree stump and the Clerk said he would arrange for this to be done as well as replanting a replacement tree.

Minute 15 (c) - following Cllr Henly's concern about the wires on the Tulip tree in North Street it was agreed to refer the matter back to committee. Cllr Miller reminded members about the 6 months rule on bringing matters up again if there was no new information.

6 Clubhouse on Recreation Ground

The meeting was adjourned from 7.47 p.m. until 8.13 p.m. to allow public participation. Cllr Henly felt that the plan for a new Clubhouse on the Recreation Ground deserved the Council's support in principle. Other members supported his remarks. Cllr Campbell pointed



out that the planning process will have to be gone through and there is a need to consider parking on the Recreation Ground, especially for the disabled. Cllr Shepherd pointed out that the Council has no say in the Education Foundation land. Cllr Childs pointed out that the Clubs do not use the Wharf Lane car park, which is free on a Sunday, and he was concerned about the positioning of the Clubhouse.

Cllr Henly made a proposal which was seconded by Cllr Turner; a vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to

RESOLVE TO RECOMMEND to full Council that, subject to further discussions, the scheme for a new Sports Clubhouse and adjoining facilities on the Recreation Ground, be supported in principle.

7 Skate Park

The Clerk reported that at the moment there is a lot of mud coming down the slope on to the Skate Park and it will be impossible to re-seed the area and keep it in reasonable condition. He suggested putting a concrete step over a small portion on the side of the seat where the Fair is normally situated.

Cllr Turner stated that it was agreed to put rubber matting down and reminded members that seating was going to be provided. It was pointed out that the main priority is to prevent mud getting on to the equipment.

It was arranged that Cllr Simpson, Cllr Turner and the Clerk meet on site on Thursday morning at 8.15 to investigate the situation.

8 Warden's Report

In the absence of the Warden the Clerk gave a report.

The Clerk reported that there have been problems with dog faeces in the Churchyard. The Herne Hill dead hedging is finished and there is still some planting to be done. All the marked trees have been coppiced. Cleeves Close has been completed. A number of dead elms have been cleared on the south side of the Hill. The Brittens Field ditch has been cleared out and the hedge cut. The Incline ditch has also been cleared. The bottom Cemetery railings are being painted - about one third has been done. A new litter bin has been placed in the Cemetery. All the grass has had a top cut over the last 2 weeks.

A record of vandalism is being kept in the office. The Pavilion has been the subject of two separate incidents of broken windows. The fencing at the end of the Canal has been destroyed twice. Damage to a seat at Winterhay has been repaired and the seat will be re-sited.

9 M.U.G.A.

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest.

The Clerk reported that it looks as if the project has got both the funding and the mechanism for putting in place hopefully by the end of the summer or autumn. The promises of funding appear to be matching the costs; a new plan of what they want will come to the Council around the end of this month.

10 Astroturf Facility

The Clerk reported that he had had discussions with County Hall about the possible lease or

purchase of some land adjoining Brittens Field for an Astroturf Facility. However he felt there would be less support from SCC for such a facility. The Chair suggested that the information be passed on to the Youth Football Club for them to pursue the matter.

11 Children's Play Equipment

The Clerk produced up-dated quotes from the companies who previously quoted for new play equipment for the Recreation Ground. The plans were studied and the quotes received. Cllr Simpson asked if the Clerk could obtain a price from SMP and Kompan for equipment without a meeting point and with rubber matting. It was felt that a target price of £25,000 should be set.

12 Exits to Council Land

The Clerk said that he wrote to all the residents whose houses adjoin Town Council owned land and reminded them that they have not been given a right of access on to that land. Some of the residents claimed they had rights under the Act of Prescription and objections were received from the solicitor for South Somerset Homes. However the legal issue has been resolved and the Clerk said he would write to the objectors about the legal position.

13 Listers Hill - Trees

The Clerk said that about a year ago he was asked to write to SSDC about two Poplar trees on the Springfield Bank suggesting removal and the Council putting money towards this. Last week a letter was received from SSDC stating 'As a goodwill gesture I am prepared to pay half the cost of removing the trees from the area classed as amenity land on the basis that the Ilminster Town Council would be prepared to cover the remainder of the charge. I should be pleased to hear whether this arrangement would be acceptable to the Town Council when instructions could be given for the work to be put in hand.' The Clerk said he replied to that letter setting out the current situation.

The Chair suggested planting evergreen shrubs on the slope and she asked the committee for agreement on what the Council would be prepared to pay towards felling and replacement. Cllr Childs made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Whaites; a vote was taken and it was agreed to

RESOLVE TO RECOMMEND putting up to £1000 towards the felling of the two Poplar trees on the Springfield Bank.

Cllr Henly recorded his objection to the trees being felled.

14 Land at Canal Way

The Clerk reminded the Committee of the current situation with regard to leasing land at the Hammer Head, Canal Way, from Brittens Trust to make a car park. They were only prepared to grant a lease for 10 years at £10 per year, and the cost of putting in a car park would be about £8000. The Trust would not agree to extending the lease to more than ten years. The Committee felt that it would not be worth the expense of putting in a car park for only ten years and so they agreed to inform the Trust that the Council no longer wishes to pursue this matter.

15 Ilminster in Bloom

The Chair showed the Committee some posters which had been produced for Ilminster in Bloom. These would be put around the town together with application forms. It was hoped that Christine Brain would again do the judging which will be in July. The painting competition would again be organised by the Chamber of Commerce. The Town Council will be producing the Certificates.

16 Tenders

(a) Cemetery Wall

Three quotes were received for work on the Cemetery wall.

Cllr Turner made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Simpson; a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND acceptance of the tender from Sibley Brothers for work on the Cemetery wall.

(b) Planting

Three quotes were received for the summer planting.

Cllr Simpson made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Whaites; a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND accepting the quote from Deane DLO for summer planting.

(c) Flail Mower

Four quotes were received for the supply of a Flail Mower, following a demo which was seen by the Wardens, the Clerk and Cllr Simpson. Cllr Childs felt that a more widely representative group of Councillors should have seen the demonstration and asked that this be followed in the future.

Following discussion a proposal was put by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Henly; a vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND purchasing a Flail Mower from Loxston Garden Machinery.

17 Correspondence and Town Clerk's Report

(i) A copy of a letter was received from Sanctuary Housing regarding parking spaces off Highfield on to the rear of High Street stating that they are not prepared to give a right of way across their land.

(ii) Copies of Tree Talk and Parrett People were received.

(iii) Information was received from SCC about local authorities consulting with parish councils on rights of way. The Clerk said he would speak to knowledgeable people about this.

(iv) The Clerk said he received a visit from Carmel Wilkinson of SSDC when she gave him a draft booklet on Church Walks. The books are part of a rural community regeneration group involving the Diocese and the SSDC wish to widen the distribution so that they are not just Church walks.

(v) The Clerk gave some information on the forthcoming elections. He agreed to give advice to

any Councillors wishing it on Tuesday 11th March at 7.15 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

18 Members Questions

(i) Cllr Park asked when the Bypass is going to be closed.

(ii) Cllr Simpson asked (a) if Wharf Lane Surgery could be informed that their car park is being used as a race track in the evenings, and (b) if the SSDC could be contacted about a red Maestro which has been parked in West Street car park since the 7th February.

(iii) Cllr Campbell asked for some clarification on the East Street scheme in view of a meeting about it to be held on the 11th March.

(iv) Cllr Henly again asked for signs in Ditton Street showing Canal Way as a through road.

(v) Cllr Whaites asked if there is any further information on the Riec-sur-Belon Way sign.

(vi) Cllr Turner asked (a) if Jeff Hollis could be contacted about dog faeces on the footpath from Canal Way to Donyatt; (b) when is the safety rail in Canal Way going to be repaired, and (c) if the condition of the hedge in Orchard Vale which was badly messed up by the Gas Board could be an item on the next agenda.

(vii) Cllr Childs asked if the next Open Spaces agenda could have an item called 'new tubs for the Churchyard'.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

at. d. G. well
15/4/03

