



# MINUTES

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**Committee:** Open Spaces Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday 18 May 2021  
**Time:** 7:15pm  
**Venue:** Greenhill Meeting Room

## Present

Cllr Paul Dodd (Chairman)  
Cllr Mike Jeffery  
Cllr Mike Warner  
Cllr Gordy Keep  
Cllr Vivienne Hodges  
Cllr Anna Adnitt

## Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)  
Andrea Northcott (Teignbridge Wildlife Warden)

## PUBLIC SESSION

The Clerk had asked Andrea Northcott (Teignbridge Wildlife Warden) to attend to give advice on minute no. 04/2021.

### 01/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

### 02/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were made. No requests for dispensations were received.

### 03/2021 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Dodd, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 as a correct record.

### 04/2021 CHURCHYARD MATTERS

Cllr Dodd stated the wildflower area currently only has one cut a year in August. Cllr Hodges stated one of the problems with the area is that it is quite rich grassland and so it is difficult for any wildflowers to get a hold there. She said there are various solutions such as cutting the grass very short to expose bare earth and put seeds or hay from a wildflower meadow on top. If you are lucky

some local wildflowers will grow. 'Moor Meadows' may provide the Council with hay if we prepared the plot in July.

*It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **resolved to suspend standing orders.***

Andrea Northcott explained that the designated wildflower area is rich grassland and very dense grass; it could take years to take the goodness out of the soil to create the poorer soil that wildflowers thrive in. She pointed out that a lot of the churchyard is species rich and a lot poorer soil. Andrea had sent the Clerk lots of information that many churchyards are using to enhance the biodiversity from 'Caring for Gods Acre'. Ultimately she suggested rethinking the siting of the wildflower area as seeds won't flourish if the soil is too rich.

Cllr Adnitt stated that the management of the churchyard is a contentious issue and the Council need to find out how the local community want the churchyard managed.

Cllr Dodd reminded the Council that we had previously worked with the biodiversity group to create a map and plan that the Contractors have and follow. Cllr Hodges stated the Council can relook at the plan and see how it can be managed differently in the future. Cllr Hodges thought that the Council could mow it close 2/3 times a year except the paths which would need to be mowed more regularly.

Cllr Hodges also noticed on a recent visit to the churchyard that there is still a lot of plastic being used despite the change in rules that no plastic is allowed.

Cllr Adnitt and Cllr Hodges are happy to relook at the management of the cemetery using the current map and plan.

*It was proposed by Cllr Dodd, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **resolved to reinstate standing orders.***

It was proposed by Cllr Dodd, seconded by Cllr Warner and **resolved to recommend** to the full council to install bat boxes in the churchyard.

*Andrea Northcott left the meeting.*

#### **05/2021 DOGS IN CHURCHYARD**

The Clerk's report had been previously circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Adnitt and **resolved to recommend** to the full council to have a meet and greet in the churchyard in July.

#### **06/2021 OPEN SPACES CONTRACT**

The Clerk noted the tender notice is published in Feb/March. Cllr Dodd noted that the Council is not obliged to take the lowest price.

It was proposed by Cllr Dodd, seconded by Cllr Jeffery and **resolved to recommend** to the full council to review the tender in November.

#### **07/2021 ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTION**

The Annual Play Inspection report had been previously circulated. The Clerk and Cllr Dodd have followed up on the actions listed in the report. Cllr Dodd thanked Cllr Keep for putting the gravel down at the entry to the playpark.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Warner and **resolved to note** the committees gratitude to Cllr Dodd for all the work he has done to ameliorate the actions listed on the report and the committee are happy for it to go on for another year.

### 08/2021 ACCESSIBILITY STUDY

Wellmoor's accessibility study proposal had been previously circulated.

Cllr Warner suggested that a walk around the town with Cllr Hodges to assess any accessibility issues would be more practical than the proposed study. It was noted by the committee that there are many pavements around the town that are too narrow.

Cllr Dodd pointed out that an accessibility study had been done in the past but Devon County Council was reluctant to put drop curbs in on the historic pavements.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Jeffery and **resolved to recommend** to the full council to support a more pragmatic approach to the study for the time being rather than supporting Wellmoor's accessibility study. A lot of the historic parts of the town don't allow for a lot of the proposals.

### 09/2021 BLACKSMITHS WHEEL

Cllr Warner's report had been previously circulated.

Cllr Dodd summarised the recent meeting with the new owner of the driveway adjacent to the wheelwright plinth. The Clerk has an appointment to review the minutes from 1982/3 to establish the history of the wheel.

It was proposed by Cllr Dodd, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **resolved to recommend** to the full council to adopt Cllr Warner's report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16pm.