

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Open Spaces & Footpaths Committee** meeting

held in The Town Hall on:

TUESDAY 15th October 2019 @ 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors; Mr P. Lock (Chairman), Ms D. Barsby, Mr T. Campbell, Mr R. Douglas, Ms K. Gough, Mr J. Howes, Mr C. Laughton.

In attendance:

Mr Simon Pritchard - Parish Clerk.

Mr Jeremy Pitman – Tree Warden

0 Members of the Public

Public Question and Comment Time:

(None)

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
1	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> None.
2	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
3	<u>Adoption of Previous Committee Minutes:</u> Tuesday 17th September 2019 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
4	<u>Capital Projects for 2020/21:</u> The Chairman had submitted a list of suggested projects to the Clerk. The Clerk had then taken most of them, making a few adjustments, and sunk them into the existing budget. The Clerk tabled the Chairman's suggested projects and costings and the draft Open Spaces budget for 2020/21 The budget showed that in 2018/19 and 2019/20 the Open Space budget had been £60,000. The Clerk had reviewed every budget line making the necessary adjustments with the Chairman's suggested projects it takes the draft budget to £72,000 with a few extra costs still to be added that will take it to around £76,000 The Clerk informed members that by the start of January 2020 members will need to make the decision if to increase the precept to allow the council to deliver the six new projects or to drop some of them. The Clerk suggested that if the increase in council tax was very small per house, per month then it is possible to justify the increase as its very easy to name the extra six projects that will be delivered with the money.

Open Spaces & Footpaths Committee - Milborne Port Parish Council: 15th Oct 2019

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Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard

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5	<u>Appointment of Playground Inspection Company:</u> The Clerk had checked with the council's insurance company as to what is expected of the Paris Council and then approached three companies. The best value one was by the local company Elite Playground Inspections. Members agreed to appoint Elite on the basis that they had been very helpful over the last few months helping the Clerk, the quote was the most competitive and as the company were based in the Village the appointment would have the least impact on the environment.
6	<u>Tree Warden Report:</u> Mr Pitman updated Members; • Yew hedge on East Street needs to be cut back as its overgrowing the footpath. • The Clump; Beach tree nearest to the church has some black spots • Church walk – Hornbeams need to be trimmed every year. • Will take a look at the Cemetery Trees and report back, particularly the Yews and the bottom hedge.
7	<u>Update on Footpaths and any Issues Arising:</u> Councilor Barsby updated members; • Letter to Mr C. Tizard still to be sent re electric fence and ?? • The stile at Vartenham Hill is still badly broken, this has been reported on the Somerset County Council (SCC) website since July and nothing has happened, and the website is never updated. The Chairman suggested that the Council needed to establish contact with the Footpaths Officer at SCC to find out what is going on and that maybe the Parish Council could send a letter to the landowner in this case. • Bathwell Lane the stream needs weeds clearing out, becoming a flood risk. The Clerk will find out who is responsible.
8	<u>Other verbal reports:</u> • The Council has been offered the chance to adopt a Christmas tree, 2-3ft to be displayed in the church. No cost for the tree, the council just need to decorate it. Members agreed to adopt a tree, Cllrs Gough & Barsby to lead on the project. • The Chairman reported that Robert Hall was content to be the Allotments coordinator – Members welcomed the news.
9	<u>Confirm the date of the next meeting:</u> Confirmed as Tuesday 17th December 2019

End of formal meeting 20:58

Signed: _____ Date: _____