

ILLOGAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Task and Finish Group held in Illogan Parish Council Community Office, Trevelyan Road, Illogan, at 7pm on Tuesday 20th February 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Thompson (Chairman), Ms Kemp (Vice Chairman), Ford (not a member of this Task and Finish Group), Holmes, Mrs O'Donnell, and Miss Pollock.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs S Rimell, Clerk

The Chairman explained the safety procedures.

OSTFG24/02/1 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE OPEN SPACES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

It was proposed by Cllr Ms Kemp, seconded by Cllr Mrs O'Donnell and

OSTFG24/02/1.2 RESOLVED to elect Cllr Mrs Thompson as Chairman of the Open Spaces Task and Finish Group.

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

OSTFG24/02/2 TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE OPEN SPACES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Holmes and

OSTFG24/02/2.2 RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Ms Kemp as Vice Chairman of the Open Spaces Task and Finish Group.

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

OSTFG24/02/3 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received; all members were present.

OSTFG24/02/4 MEMBERS TO DECLARE DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (INCLUDING DETAILS THEREOF) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND ANY GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY OVER £25

There were no interests declared.

OSTFG24/02/5 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications from members for dispensations.

OSTFG24/02/6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

OSTFG24/02/7 TO IDENTIFY GREEN SPACES WITHIN ILLOGAN PARISH AND AGREE ANY FUTURE ACTIONS

It was felt that Illogan Parish Council should have a green infrastructure, a planned network of multi-functional green spaces.

These green spaces need not be a huge plot of land for it to benefit the Community or wildlife. Green spaces needed to be designed, developed, and managed to deliver an improved quality of life to those who live in our Parish but also environmentally.

Green places can vary from an embankment of unkempt grass to a whole plot of green space, all can be of benefit to our Parish and now seems the time to grasp what we can before it's built on! In September 2023 Cornwall Council land was sold at auction with the starting bid at £1.

They included a 0.01-acre verge in St Austell for £6,510 and a 0.007-acre slope behind a bus stop in St Blazy for £111. Four of the eight lots on sale by Cornwall Council had no guide price or reserve. David Henwood explained the lots in Cornwall were "surplus to requirements" for the local authority.

"They have had them for varying lengths of time and for different reasons, but have no use for them any longer," he said.

"The majority have been advertised with no reserve which has piqued interest as you could, in theory, get them for as little as £1."

" We have had interest from a range of people, some very local to the land and others from further afield". Taken from the BBC news Cornwall 20 September 2023.

This piece of news sparked interest and concern. At present it was felt the Council were in a position to obtain land and that the land should be taken on.

For example: in Churchtown there is a grass bank owned by Cornwall Council. 7 years ago, this piece of land was regularly mowed, and children would walk up and down the bank to and from Illogan school. Nowadays it is a sorry patch of long grass, unkempt apart from being cut twice a year. There was money spent on it once with various bushes and plants, but no maintenance care plan was passed onto Cormac, or they forgot. All the new bushes were either trimmed down or died from the lack of maintenance schedule. The long grass that wasn't collected swamped the new plants and bushes.

It would not take a lot to improve this site: Mow and collect the grass, two patches scarified, Wildflower seeds placed, and the ongoing removal of any big, invasive weeds.

Last year the thin patch of land behind the changing rooms was sown with such seeds. With little maintenance they are still showing the odd flower!

A small patch of land that is frequently passed by the local community, cared for, and maintained in a minimal but correct way can make a huge difference to our community and wildlife in it.

It was felt that as long as this Council had a primary aim for the spaces then it would be hard for Cornwall Council to refuse.

Increasing the Parishes green infrastructure would provide many benefits for our community by:

- Supporting all ages mental and physical health
- Bringing the community together
- Encouraging active travel to walk or bike whilst reconnecting with nature.
- Taking pride in the place they call home.

OSTFG24/02/8 TO CONSIDER GREEN SPACES WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY BE TAKEN OVER BY ILLOGAN PARISH COUNCIL AND AGREE ANY FUTURE ACTIONS

Members felt that it was important to retain and secure green spaces of all sizes throughout the parish.

Members considered the following green areas as an initial list of green areas of interest; other areas would also be identified and considered at future meetings:

- Park Bottom Play Area
- Play area at Rosemullion Gardens
- Land at Poldark Road
- Land at Sunnyside Park (Plot 1)
- Land at Sunnyside Park (Plot 2)
- Land at Valley Gardens

It was noted that the Initial Proposal Form for Land Adjacent to Chyvounder had been completed and would be submitted to Cornwall Council subject to Full Council approval on the 21st February 2024.

The large bank in front of the new housing estate Park an Lann, used to be beautiful and covered in daffodils; this area could be replanted with daffodil bulbs and trimmed more regularly to improve the look of the area for everyone who passes it.

There is a corner of land on the cut through between Lamanva Road and Pencarrow Road.

The embankment in Churchtown.

OSTFG24/02/9 TO CONSIDER FUTURE USES FOR GREEN SPACES WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY BE TAKEN OVER BY ILLOGAN PARISH COUNCIL AND AGREE ANY FUTURE ACTIONS

Members considered uses for green spaces. Green spaces could:

- Attract wildlife.

- Be a food growing hub – a lot can be grown in a small space and could feed many.
- Be a sensory or wellbeing garden that offers a place of respite, relaxation, and recovery.
- Help people learn about a changing climate or any other of our local issues.
- Be a memorial garden to recognise those that are no longer here.

The land at Poldark Road was well situated to be a children’s play area, play equipment could be installed and it would create a safe space in the local area for children to play. The area currently only has the grass cut twice a year, it was unkempt and had dog waste in the long grass. If it was better maintained and useable it would bring the community together and they would take more pride in the area.

Growing gardens would need community involvement, if successful they would bring communities together.

The Clerk suggested that the areas should be visited so all members were clear on where the areas were and the condition of the space. The Council did not want to expose itself to unnecessary risks or liabilities.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Thompson, seconded by Cllr Miss Pollock and

OSTFG24/02/9.2 RESOLVED that all Task and Finish Group members would meet with the Clerk on Wednesday 28th February at 9.30am at the Council Office. Members would car share and green spaces in the area would be looked at, photographs taken, conditions of the area and its potential uses considered with a view to completion of Initial Proposal Forms being completed, considered, and agreed at the next meeting of this Task and Finish Group and presented to Full Council for approval at the March meeting.

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously.

OSTFG24/02/10 TO AGREE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL ON GREEN SPACES IN ILLOGAN PARISH WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY BE TAKEN OVER BY ILLOGAN PARISH COUNCIL AND THE USES FOR THE GREEN SPACES AND AGREE ANY FUTURE ACTIONS

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

OSTFG24/02/11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 5th March 2024. 7pm in Illogan Parish Council Community Office.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed

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Date

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