

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2006

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), DESAVE, MULCUCK AND THROSSELL
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

610. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.50pm.

611. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies, previously notified, were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Mrs Mulcuck and Thorpe.

612. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 614(d) as they are members of the bowls club and therefore use the lock on the barrier.

613. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED** was **READ**, discussed and **NOTED**.

The Grounds Supervisor submitted a request to the Committee for the purchase of six new tools. It was **NOTED** that the tools budget for this year was overspent but that there were unspent funds in other budgets.

RESOLVED to accede to the request to purchase the new tools and that they be paid for from the unspent budgets for the War Memorial and Contingencies.

(b) Request to slip forward funds:

(i) FUNDS SLIPPED FORWARD THIS YEAR FOR REPAINTING PLAY EQUIPMENT AT NRRG

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the funds slipped forward to this financial year be slipped forward to 2006/07 to pay for the repainting of play equipment at NRRG.

- (ii) QUARRY DEVELOPMENT FUND TO PAY FOR RAGWORT TREATMENTS IN THE QUARRY

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the unspent quarry development fund be slipped forward to pay for the ragwort treatment required in the quarry.

It was **NOTED** that there are unspent funds in the budget for General Treatments and it was suggested that these be slipped forward to assist with the payment of the pitches being overseeded (see item 613(d)).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the unspent funds in the General Treatments budget be slipped forward to assist with the cost of overseeding the football pitches.

- (c) Repairs to Flapper Barrier

A request from the Community Centre Committee to share a repair cost of £830.00 for the car park flapper barrier was **READ**. Discussion took place and it was thought that any car park repairs should be paid for by the Community Centre. However, Cllr DeSave said that users of the recreation ground also used the car park and that is why the Community Centre had asked for the cost to be shared.

RESOLVED to place this matter on the next Agenda for consideration by the Full Council.

- (d) Quotation to oversee football pitches

The Grounds Supervisor **READ** two quotations to oversee the football pitches this year:-

- | | |
|-----|-----------|
| (1) | £1,300.00 |
| (2) | £ 850.00 |

RESOLVED to accept quotation 2 from Parkers to oversee the football pitches.

614. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**

- (a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 399, Item 548(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting with the Quarry Working Party is to take place on Friday 31st March at 10am in the Parish Office.

- (b) New Road Recreation Ground [Page 400, Item 548(b)]

- (i) Wall behind Scout Hut

It was **NOTED** that the order for this work had been placed with the contractor.

- (ii) Concrete base

It was **NOTED** that the order for this work had been placed with the contractor.

(c) Village Green (Page 400, Item 548(c))

(i) TRIMMING OF TREES

It was **NOTED** that the trees on the Village Green near to the Church are to be trimmed on 27th and 28th of March and funds for this have been set aside in this year's capital items.

It was **FURTHER NOTED** that planning permission had been applied for to trim the trees on the green between St Peter's Road and New Road Business Estate. No funds have been set aside for this purpose but it was **NOTED** that the budget for trees had not been spent this year.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE UNSPENT TREE BUDGET BE SLIPPED FORWARD TO PAY FOR THE TREES TO BE TRIMMED ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

(ii) REPLACEMENT OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR TREE

It was **NOTED** that there was no update on this item.

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ADJOURNEMENT

Norma and Robin Webb of Ditton Allotment Tenants Society (DATS) wished to thank the Parish Council for marking out the paths in the allotments and providing better bag supports and to enquire when the new security fence was likely to be erected. ***The Chairman advised that the paths have been measured out and a better surface for them was to be investigated and the security fence is on the Council's five year maintenance plan to be done within the next financial year.***

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(d) Security Problems/Lock on barrier along top track (Page 400, Item 548(d))

It was **NOTED** that the new lock and keys will be purchased after the allotment holders AGM on 29th March and before the bowls club meeting in April. This is to ascertain if the allotment holders are happy to have the same lock/key on the barrier that is on the allotment gate and to then enable the bowls club to distribute keys to its members at their meeting.

(e) Forestry Commission Felling Licence (Page 401, Item 548(e))

It was **NOTED** that no reply had been received.

615. **PROVISION FOR YOUTH**

Following a suggestion of a youth shelter or some kind of provision for youth in the village by the Community Warden, the Administrative Assistant and Grounds Supervisor CIRCULATED information on ball parks for consideration by the members. The Administrative Assistant advised that the Community Warden would be able to obtain grants towards any youth project in the village. Photographs of a suggested location at NRRG were CIRCULATED. Some members expressed concern about anything that included seating being placed at NRRG as they felt it could attract undesirable behavior.

RESOLVED that members would consider a suitable location and the Grounds Supervisor and Administrative Assistant would find out more information on size and cost.

616. **HANGING BASKETS**

The Grounds Supervisor asked if the Parish Council would require fewer hanging baskets this year because of the water shortages and possible ban on non-essential watering. It was suggested that a water butt system be investigated to enable the grounds staff to collect water for watering.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Parish Council does not have any hanging baskets this year and an item is placed in the Ditton Gazette to explain that this is because of the water shortage.

617. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

Members felt that the water shortage would have an impact on the gardens that would normally be considered for this competition. Discussion took place on whether the competition should be postponed for this year as it may be wrong to encourage non-essential watering for gardens.

The Administrative Assistant advised that she had found a new judge for the competition via the Ditton Gardening Club.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Best Kept Garden Competition be postponed for this year and an item be placed in the Gazette to explain why. Also, to advise the new judge of this decision and thank him and ask if he would consider judging next year.

618. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) Notice of DATs AGM – 29th March 2006

This was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the Chairman and Grounds Supervisor hoped to attend the meeting.

(b) Plots

A plan drawn up by the Grounds Supervisor of the plots and pathways, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and **NOTED**. Discussion took place on materials that could be used to improve the main path.

RESOLVED to obtain quotations from a contractor to ascertain the best method for improving the path.

619. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Kent Highway Services - Street Light Maintenance
RESOLVED TO REPLY EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN KCC TAKING OVER THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S STREET LIGHTS AND ASK FOR A QUOTATION OF THE COST.

TMBC Policy & Conservation - Path at St Peter's Church
RESOLVED TO REPLY TO TMBC AND RE-ITERATE KCC'S COMMENTS MENTIONED IN THE LETTER BELOW THAT THE YORKSTONE PATH WAS PUT DOWN AT THE INSISTENCE OF TMBC, DESPITE OBJECTIONS FROM THIS PARISH COUNCIL AND KCC. THEREFORE THEY SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT.

KCC - Public Rights of Way – Reply to TMBC re Footpath MR100 at St Peter's Church
 (copy herewith)
RESOLVED TO REPLY TO LUCY BREEZE, KCC RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER, TO AGREE WITH HER COMMENTS AND ADVISE HER THAT WE HAVE THE SUPPORTING CORRESPONDENCE IN OUR FILES IF SHE NEEDS FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER.

620. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The following items of correspondence were **CIRCULATED, READ** and **NOTED**:-

Fieldwork - Campaign to Protect Rural England March 2006

The Playing Field - Winter 2005-06

The Kent Men of the Trees - Arbor – Winter/Spring 2006
 - Notice of AGM – Egerton Village Hall
 - Programme of Events

RoSPA - International Play Safety Conference

TMBC - Gardening for Wildlife Award Scheme 2006 & Gardening Seminar Invite

621. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Chairman
3rd April 2006