

**DITTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), J D DAY, J E DESAVE, AND THORPE  
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)  
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

330. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 9.00pm.

331. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

332. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

333. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

(b) Five Year Plan

Discussion took place on items to be included in the five year plan. The main items to be included were fencing projects and some new machinery. The Chairman will meet with the Grounds Supervisor and Administrative Assistant to look at this further when looking at the budgets for next year.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 243, Item 270(a)]

A letter from FCS Vegetation Control was **READ**. The suggestions for controlling the Japanese Knotweed and the Ragwort in the Quarry, together with the quote for carrying out the treatments were **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from FCS Vegetation Control to spray the Ragwort before the spring growth, at a cost £540.00. This amount to be paid for from the accrued fund for Quarry Development. Also to accept the quotation to spray the Japanese Knotweed in August/September 2006 at a cost of £135.00 and that provision be made in next years budgets to cover these costs.

(b) Play equipment post-installation inspection (Page 244, Item 270[e])

It was **NOTED** that the repainting had been completed but the safety surfaces have not yet been repaired. The Administrative Assistant will continue to “push” for this repair as soon as possible.

(c) Cricket Square [Page 244, Item 271]

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had spoken with EDM Cricket Club and had agreed that they would pay £65.00 per match.

(d) Locking of Play Area at Weekends [Page 246, Item 273]

It was **NOTED** that the resident from Pear Tree Avenue that had offered to lock/unlock the play area at weekends had agreed to do so for a monthly fee of £25. Concern was expressed on whether there were any health/safety issues about a member of the public performing this service on the Council’s behalf. The Administrative Assistant will discuss this issue with the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** to offer the resident £25.00 per week and provide a letter of authorization for locking the play area at weekends, provided there are no health and safety issues.

### 335. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that a reply from the gardening club for suggestions for a new judge had not yet been received.

### 336. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that more vandalism had occurred at the allotments and in particular Mr Mace’s plot had been damaged again. Mr Mace’s diagram for a path around the whole allotment area, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was discussed. The Chairman expressed concern as to whether such a path would be viable because of the raised mound at the top end. The Grounds Supervisor advised that this could be possible if a digger was hired.

**RESOLVED** a site meeting will be held to ascertain if it would be possible to make such a path and the costs to be investigated.

### 337. **NEW ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

(a) Wall behind Scout Hut

A picture of this wall was **CIRCULATED**. It was **NOTED** that although this wall is leaning, it does not appear to have worsened since last year. However, members were mindful that it could be dangerous if left for too long.

**RESOLVED** to obtain suggestions and quotations to repair/replace this wall.

(b) Suggestion for Concrete base

It was **NOTED** that the football club using NRRG had commented that they thought the concrete base left by the removal of the old toilet block could be a safety hazard to children stepping back from the football pitch. They had also suggested that if it had to remain, could a “shelter” be placed on it.

Discussion took place and it was **NOTED** that a previous quotation to remove the concrete base was approximately £1,000 and therefore the Grounds Staff had built up the earth around the base to avoid it being a trip hazard.

**RESOLVED** to hold a further site meeting to look at the safety aspect of the concrete base.

338. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

Open Space - Autumn 2005, Vol 28 No 4  
THE CHAIRMAN WILL READ THIS ITEM.

339. **CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 9.26pm.

Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2005

