

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2006

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), A R MULCUCK, MRS MULCUCK
AND P A THORPE
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

667. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.00pm.

668. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

669. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Muluck and Mrs Mulcuck declared a personal interest in item 671(d) as they are members of the bowls club and therefore use the lock on the barrier.

670. **FINANCE**

Financial Analysis

The financial analysis was **CIRCULATED**, **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the Committee had kept within its overall budget for the year. Members agreed this was an excellent achievement as there had been a lot of unbudgeted expenditure during the year.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 428, Item 614(a)]

The notes of the recent meeting of the Quarry Working Party were **READ** and **NOTED**.

(b) New Road Recreation Ground [Page 428, Item 614(b)]

(i) Wall behind Scout Hut

It was **NOTED** that there is nothing further to report.

(ii) Concrete base

It was **NOTED** that there was nothing further to report at the moment.

(c) Village Green (Page 429, Item 614(c))(i) Trimming of Trees

It was **NOTED** that the tree surgeon had made an excellent job of the trees outside the Rectory.

It was **FURTHER NOTED** that planning permission had just been received in respect of these trees being trimmed and a revised quotation had been obtained from the tree surgeon to trim these trees for £850.00. He had also quoted to trim the conifers near the petanque piste for £420.00.00, following a complaint from a resident about the height of these trees.

RESOLVED to ask the tree surgeon to hold this quote until the autumn and to write to the residents to advise that the Council will arrange for the trees to be trimmed in the autumn.

(ii) Replacement of Christmas Lights for tree

The Grounds Supervisor advised that he will measure the length of cable required for the lights and pass this information to David Stephens who will hopefully provide a quotation for the next meeting.

(d) Security Problems/Lock on barrier along top track (Page 429, Item 614(d))

It was **NOTED** that the new lock had been purchased and the keys were being distributed. It was hoped to put the new lock on the barrier within the next two weeks.

Cllr Mulcuck asked if he may raise three small matters relating to the barrier and track. Members acceded to this request:

- (i) the 5mph sign has been moved – could it be moved again near the bin where it will be seen more clearly.
- (ii) could a post be erected to secure the barrier to when it is left open to stop it causing injury if it were to swing shut.
- (iii) could the hedges along the track be trimmed to improve visibility.

RESOLVED the Grounds Supervisor will ensure that the above matters are attended to.

(e) Forestry Commission Felling Licence (Page 429, Item 614(e))

It was **NOTED** that a reply had still not been received.

(f) Provision for Youth (Page 430, Item 615)

It was **NOTED** that no further information on ball parks was available. Cllr Thorpe said he thought the possibility of a skate park in the village should be investigated further.

Members agreed that there was a need for something for the youth in the village and further investigations should be made into skate parks and ball parks and information be available at the next meeting.

672. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) Letter from DATs re lock and fence

A letter from DATs about the lock on the barrier and the proposed new fence, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that DATs have asked if the gate could be moved when the new fence is erected.

RESOLVED to obtain a new quotation for the fence to include moving the gate.

(b) Minutes of DATs AGM – 29th March 2006

READ and **NOTED**.

(c) Water – stop cock/meter

The Grounds Supervisor explained that there is no way of isolating the water supply to the allotments if necessary. He gave details of how he could install a stop-cock and water meter.

RESOLVED to obtain quotations to hire an excavator and install a water meter.

673. **FOOTBALL PITCHES**

(a) Requests from Ditton Minors and Holtwood to share pitches

Letters from Ditton Minors and Holtwood Rangers were **READ** and it was **NOTED** that they both require additional pitches but this could be resolved by them sharing their current pitches with each other when not in use.

RESOLVED to accede to the requests from both teams.

It was also suggested that a chart be drawn up of which teams play on which pitch and when, to make it easier to keep track of the teams and condition of the pitches.

(b) Pitch Fees

It was **NOTED** that the pitch fees are still very reasonable compared to others in the area. The current fees are £55.00 for juniors and £125.00 for seniors.

RESOLVED to increase junior pitch fees to £60.00 and senior teams to £135.00 per team per season.

674. **NOTICE BOARDS – REPLACEMENT/REFURBISHMENT/CLEANING**

It was **NOTED** that the condition of some of the Notice Boards in the Parish are in very poor condition. It was suggested that a substantial sum should be included in this Committee's five year plan to re-furbish/replace the notice boards in the near future.

RESOLVED the Grounds Supervisor will inspect the Notice Boards and highlight those in most in need of repair.

The Grounds Supervisor explained that although his staff may be able to do some repairs to the notice boards they are very busy now that they have the school contracts and path clearance contracts and this leaves them very little time to attend to general maintenance duties.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Council consider employing a part-time grounds person to assist with the increased duties in the summer months.

675. **ALARM SYSTEM FOR GROUNDS STAFF COMPOUND & MACHINERY SHEDS**

Following a break-in at the Community Centre it has highlighted the vulnerability of some of the Parish Council's property. It was NOTED that a quotation is awaited for installing a monitored alarm system in the grounds staff's compound and machinery sheds.

676. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Church Pre-School - Request to hold Pre-School Summer Fair on the Village Green

RESOLVED to accede to this request, subject to the usual terms and conditions.

677. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

East Malling & Larkfield PC - Letter to PROW re Bridleway MR108 from Sweets Lane

To Barming

KCC PROW - Reply to East Malling & Larkfield PC re MR108

TMBC Conservation Officer - Ditton Church Path

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership - Kingfisher Issue 1 Spring 2006

National Playing Fields Assoc. - Notice of Annual General Meeting

Open Spaces Society - Open Space – Spring 2006, Vol. 28 No.5

678. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman
3rd May 2006