

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 FEBRUARY 2006

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

544. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.55pm.

545. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

546. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Mulcuck, Mrs Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 548(d) because they are members of the bowls club and therefore use the lock on the barrier.

547. **FINANCE**

Financial Analysis

The financial analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED** was **READ**, discussed and **NOTED**.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 372, Item 491(a)]

Notes of the meeting with Quarry Working Party, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, were **READ** and **NOTED**. The Grounds Supervisor **REPORTED** that he had met with members of the working party at the quarry and together they had identified the areas that needed clearing and those that needed to be treated sensitively when the ragwort spraying takes place.

(b) New Road Recreation Ground [Page 372, Item 491(b)]

(i) Wall behind Scout Hut (updated quote for removal)

The Administrative Assistant REPORTED that she had asked the contractor that supplied quote (a) to revise the quote to include the removal and replacement of the fence if necessary to make the two quotations comparable.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND to accept quotation (a) from Top 2 Bottom to remove and rebuild the retaining wall to the rear of the Scout Hut at a cost of £3,095.00 plus VAT with the proviso that if the fence has to be removed/replaced to do the work this will cost an additional £200.00 plus VAT. Also that this cost be met from Central Funds as it is an urgent item that appeared on this Committee's Five Year Plan. This work should be carried out as soon as the weather improves and permission is to be sought to use the access from New Road.

(ii) Concrete base (updated quote for removal)

A revised quotation from Peter Mackelden to remove the concrete base was **READ** as £1,150.00.

RESOLVED to accept this quotation and request that this work be undertaken when the weather improves. The cost is to be met as a capital item from this Committee's five year plan.

(c) Village Green (Page 373, Item 493)(i) Trimming of Trees

It was **NOTED** that the two lime trees and one cedar tree on the village green are to be trimmed on 27th and 28th March.

It was further **NOTED** that the Grounds Supervisor is to meet with Liz Guthrie from TMBC to ascertain if the trees on the other part of the green between St Peter's Road and New Road Business Estate require planning permission before being trimmed.

(ii) Replacement of Christmas Lights for tree

There was no update available.

(d) Security Problems/Lock on barrier along top track (Page 374, Item 494)

The Administrative Assistant advised that the Bowls Club had contacted the Parish Council to advise that they would be happy for the lock to be changed to one requiring a key. They have suggested that the council order 100 keys. The Bowls club will purchase 50 keys for their members and would like the council to hold the other 50 in stock. However, Members felt it was too expensive for the Council to purchase the additional 50 keys, at £5 per key, as they may not be required. It had previously been suggested that a lock be purchased with the same barrel as the one already on the

allotments so that the allotment holders would not require an additional key. However, the Allotment Holders should be consulted on this matter before the lock is purchased.

RESOLVED to wait for a reply from the Allotment Tenants and to obtain a quote for 50 keys for the Bowls Club.

(e) Forestry Commission Felling Licence (Page 375, Item 496(a))

A copy of the original licence, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the licence required a certain amount of replanting. The Grounds Supervisor confirmed that some replanting has already been undertaken.

RESOLVED to ask the Forestry Commission to visit the site again with the Grounds Supervisor to enable them to point out any areas that still need replanting.

549. **PROVISION OF YOUTH SHELTER**

The suggestion from the Community Warden, of providing a youth shelter, possibly at New Road Recreation Ground was discussed. Members felt that New Road Recreation Ground was too isolated and would attract problems. It was also felt that an enclosed shelter like the one suggested, would not be suitable at Kiln Barn Road and the existing fidget station is already very popular.

RESOLVED not to accede to this request at this time and advise the Community Warden accordingly.

550. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

The Administrative Assistant advised that the tenant of plot 18b had given up the plot due to illness in the family. The plot will be offered to the next person on the list that does not already have a plot. The Grounds Supervisor will trim off and tidy up this plot ready for the new tenant.

The Grounds Supervisor also REPORTED that he had made a new support for the bags which seemed to work better. He also hoped to re-mark out the plots this week and asked if the Allotment Managers would like to look at this.

RESOLVED the Allotment Managers to meet with the Grounds Supervisor to inspect the newly marked out plots on Friday 24th February at 3.00pm.

ADJOURNEMENT

Mr Andy Peel and Mr Paul Curtis from Ditton United Football Club wished to bring the problem of dogs fouling the recreation ground to the Council's attention. They reported that one of their recent matches was nearly cancelled by the referee because of the amount dog

excrement on the pitch. They also asked for clarification of the Council's bylaws in respect of dogs being kept on leads on the recreation ground. ***Mr Peel and Mr Curtis were thanked for bringing this problem to the Council's attention and advised that the Council would investigate ways in which it might be prevented in the future.***

551. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Vets Football Club - Dog Fouling on Recreation Ground

RESOLVED to check this Council's bylaws to see if dogs should be kept on leads on the recreation grounds. Also to speak to the Dog Warden to see if he can offer any assistance and advice, and to do a poster campaign to make people aware of the law regarding dogs fouling public areas and how unpleasant and dangerous it can be.

552. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

(a) NSALG - Allotment & Leisure Gardener Issue 1/2006

The Chairman will READ this publication and REPORT back any items of interest to the Committee.

553. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman
6th March 2006