

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 18TH APRIL 2005

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

684. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.05pm.

685. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

686. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

687. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis for the end of the Financial Year was **READ** and **NOTED**. The Administrative Assistant will investigate why the electricity costs incurred were much greater than what was budgeted for.

(b) Purchase of new mower from capital items

It was **NOTED** that an amount of £850.00 had been set aside in capital items to purchase a new mower. The Grounds Staff now needed this mower but because of price increases, the cost of purchase will be more than the £850.00 set aside.

RESOLVED to purchase the new mower with the £850.00 set aside and pay the balance from the Machinery Depreciation Fund.

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

(a) Play Equipment [Page 333, Item 628(a)]

(i) UPDATE ON KBBRG

The Administrative Assistant advised that the contractor had set a provisional start date of Monday 25th April to commence work on refurbishing the play area.

RESOLVED as soon as the date is confirmed, the Administrative Assistant will notify members of the Playground Working Party.

(ii) **PAINTING PLAY EQUIPMENT AT NRRG**

It was **NOTED** that two contractors had visited this site and will supply quotations to repaint the play equipment and repair the damaged safety surfaces.

(b) Demolition of Toilet Block at NRRG [Page 334, Item 628(b)]

It was **NOTED** that this had now been completed but a large unsightly concrete area has been left.

RESOLVED the Grounds Supervisor will investigate possible solutions to making this area more attractive, possibly using more soil and planting.

(c) Site for Burning/Disposal of green waste etc. [Page 335, Item 630(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the Borough Council had been contacted with regard to disposing of this Parish Council's 'green waste' but as yet no reply had been received. The Administrative Assistant will follow this up.

Discussion took place on various alternatives such as identifying an area, possibly on the edge of the quarry, for burning, and the cost of purchasing a wood chipper.

RESOLVED the Ground Supervisor to ascertain how much waste will need to be disposed of and liaise with the office. The Administrative Assistant to look into the implications and restrictions of burning and the cost of a wood chipper.

689. **DITTON COURT QUARRY**

(a) Working Party

It was **NOTED** that no meetings have taken place recently between the Parish Council and the Quarry Working Party. It was suggested that this could be looked into along with the investigations into the quarry becoming a nature reserve, in item (b) below.

(b) Information on Conservation Restrictions

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had spoken to Jo Dear at English Nature, who was extremely pleased to hear that this Parish Council is considering Local Nature Reserve status for the Quarry. It was further **NOTED** that a site visit had been arranged for Tuesday 17th May 2005 at 10.30am.

RESOLVED Cllr Mulcuck will attend the site meeting and Sheila Farmer should be asked (along with any other members of the Quarry Working Party) if they wish to attend the site meeting.

It was also **NOTED** that the Clerk had contacted the Kent Wildlife Trust regarding their single payment scheme. They had replied advising that Local Authorities would not normally be eligible for this payment but a local interest group might be. It was suggested that this is something that the Quarry Working Party might be able to look into if it continues.

(c) Web Site information for Quarry

RESOLVED information should be put on the web site detailing the history of the quarry, the various walks and rare plants and wildlife. Cllr DeSave will forward some information to the office.

690. **DITTON TENNIS CLUB**

A letter from the Tennis Club, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the Tennis Club would be dissolved with effect from 1 April 2005. Members expressed disappointment at this news but realised that the club could not continue because of lack of members. It was also **NOTED** that there is a list of clubs waiting to hire the multi-sports facility so hopefully the times that the tennis club had could be re-let as soon as possible.

691. **CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT**

The Children's Play Area Safety Inspection Report was **READ** and the areas in need of attention were **NOTED**.

692. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- (a) Request to hold family fun day - St Peter's & St Paul's Pre-School
Friday 15th July 2005 in Don Carman
Hall and Area outside

RESOLVED to agree to this request provided that the pre-school abide by the usual conditions of using the recreation ground and that they have adequate insurance for this purpose.

693. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** items (a) – (c) and report back on any items of interest.

- (a) Kent County Playing Fields Association - Agenda, Annual Report & Accounts
 (b) Fields Focus - Spring 2005
 (c) SERPA - Newsletter - Issue 47 - Spring 2005
 (d) RoSPA - International Play Safety Conference
 6th June 2005

READ and NOTED.

694. **CLOSURE**

Cllr Day thanked the Administrative Assistant for providing the necessary information for the meeting to run smoothly. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Chairman
4th May 2005