

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 JULY 2005

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

171. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chair at 8.00pm.

172. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies, previously notified, were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Cllr Baker.

173. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

174. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis was **CIRCULATED**, **READ** and **NOTED**. Cllr Thorpe asked if the amount shown as income of £1,303 for Cemeteries/Churchyard was contributed by the Borough Council for their upkeep. The Administrative Assistant said she thought that this was the case but would check.

Cllr Mulcuck asked if the Parish Council would have to pay to replace the posts on the village green recently damaged by a car. The Grounds Supervisor advised that no trace was made on the car therefore the Council would have to replace the posts.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 64, Item 123(b)]

Notes of a site meeting with English Nature, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, were **READ** and **NOTED**. Notes of a meeting of members of the Quarry Working Party were also **CIRCULATED** and **READ**. Members agreed that a steering group consisting of members of the Parish Council and Quarry Working Party was a good idea to work towards achieving LNR status for the quarry. Cllr Mulcuck and Nigel Saunders expressed interest in being involved and Cllr Mrs Thwaites said either she or Cllr Baker would also like to be involved.

The Grounds Supervisor was asked if his staff could undertake any of the day to day maintenance. He advised that they should be able to deal with most of the maintenance apart from the removal of ragwort, which would need spraying by a contractor. Cllr Mulcuck suggested that a sum is set aside when

considering next year's budget for hiring contractors/machinery for maintenance in the quarry. It was also suggested the Council enquire whether Tarmac, who own part of the quarryland, would be willing to contribute to the maintenance costs. The Parish Council could also investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant to purchase the additional land from Tarmac, if they were willing to sell in the future.

The Grounds Supervisor advised he is hoping to cut the long grass with the new mower to avoid risk the of fire.

RESOLVED to set up a steering group consisting of members of the Quarry Working Party and Parish Council and to obtain quotations for ragwort treatment.

(b) Storage [Page 64, Item 125(a)]

A quote for a container to be used for storage in the Grounds Staff's compound of £850.00 (for a basic container) plus VAT and £130.00 delivery was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to defer this matter until later in the year to see if funds are available. If not, to consider purchasing in next year's budget.

(c) Compound Fence and Gate [Page 65, Item 125(b)]

A quote to supply and erect 43m of 2m high galvanized palisade fencing plus one set of double gates for the Grounds Staff's Compound, of £4,500.00 plus VAT was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to obtain further quotes as this quote seemed to be the most expensive option.

(d) Fencing along top track [Page 65, Item 126]

The Grounds Supervisor explained his suggestion for a barrier and fencing along the top track to prevent vehicles from gaining access to the recreation ground without permission.

RESOLVED to investigate the costs involved in erecting such a fence and barrier.

(e) Request to install anti-vandal fencing to rear of Troutbeck House [Page 65, Item

128(b)]

A quote to install 32m of 2m high galvanized palisade fencing to the rear of Troutbeck House of £1,498.00 was **READ** and **NOTED**. It was further **NOTED** that residents of Troutbeck House had indicated that they would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost of this fencing.

RESOLVED to write to the residents advising of this quotation and ask if they are still willing to make a contribution in the region of £1,000 to the cost. If they are in agreement then to proceed with having this fence installed.

(f) Removal of fence to rear of 553 New Road for access [Page 65, Item 128(c)]

A quotation of £850.00 to remove a section of chain link fence, behind 553 New Road, to enable the resident to remove some over grown trees and to then replace with new sections of chain link fence, was **READ**. It was suggested that as it is the resident who wants to do this (this section of fencing would otherwise not need replacing for at least another five years) he could be given permission to do so at his cost, provided he used a reputable contractor.

RESOLVED to write to the resident and advise him of the cost involved and that the Parish Council would give permission to do this work provided a reputable contractor was used and the fence replaced to a satisfactory standard.

The Grounds Supervisor advised that a quote, of £250.00, had also been obtained to replace another section of chain link fence that had been removed when the toilet block was demolished. The area is currently fenced with arras fencing and is under constant attack by vandals.

RESOLVED to accept this quotation to replace this section of fencing.

176. **PLAY EQUIPMENT POST-INSTALLATION INSPECTION**

The Administrative Assistant advised that a post-installation inspection of the new play equipment was required by the Borough Council before they would release the grant. It was **NOTED** that his inspection had been completed and a copy of the report was **CIRCULATED**. It was further **NOTED** that the report highlighted that some of the work did not meet some of the required safety standards. The Administrative Assistant advised that she had contacted the contractor who had assured her that he would send someone out to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

RESOLVED the Administrative Assistant to ensure the problems are rectified and if not REPORT back to the Council.

177. **FOOTBALL SEASON/PITCH MAINTENANCE**

It was **NOTED** that because the football season had been extended in to May to allow a few extra games to be played, insufficient time had been allowed for overseeding on the pitches. The Grounds Supervisor requested that next year he would like a certain cut off period for football (usually the last week of April) and that no football matches be played during the summer to enable him to properly treat the pitches. However, he did advise that small 5-a-side games would not cause any problems. He also suggested it would be beneficial to have a contractor or hire a special machine to oversee the pitches properly.

RESOLVED to inform all the football clubs that no full pitch matches will be allowed after the official end of the season next year (last week of April). Also to obtain a quotation to have the pitches overseeded and dressed by machine.

178. **SALTEX SHOW**

The Grounds Supervisor advised that the Institute of Groundsmen would not be organising a coach trip to the Saltex Show this year. It was **NOTED** that the dates for the show were 15-17th September 2005, if anyone wished to attend.

179. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that the barrier combination lock, giving access to the allotments and bowls club, had had to be changed because it was continually being left open. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the new lock had been jammed and the Grounds Supervisor advised he would replace it as soon as possible. Cllr Mulcuck, declared an interest in this item as he is a member of the bowls club, and advised that members of the bowls club felt that insufficient notice was given. It would seem that the letter advising of the code change had been delayed in the post so they did not receive as much notice as was intended.

180. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that most of the nominations were now in and the last few would follow later this week. It was also **NOTED** that Cllr Baker was not available to escort the judges on Friday 29th July at 10.00am, therefore Cllr Mulcuck advised he would be happy to do so.

181. **CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman
1st August 2005