

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), MULCUCK, AND MRS THROSSELL
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

103 . **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.55pm.

The Chairman moved that as Tom Hawkwood and a representative from Monster Play Systems were in attendance, the meeting be adjourned to allow them to speak.

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Adjournment

Mark Grace, Sales Executive, Monster Play Systems introduced himself and advised that he has been in contact with many Community Wardens including Tom Hawkwood, Ditton’s Community Warden, with a view to reviewing provision for youth. Generally, most parishes provide play areas for younger children but there are rarely facilities for 12 – 16 year olds. He is currently in the process of providing a teen shelter in Loose and kick walls in East Malling, Wrotham and Burham. Mark displayed a diagram of a suggestion for a goal end with basket ball hoop and tarmac area. He advised that the total cost would be £15,000. Tom advised that he may be able to obtain a grant of up to £10,000 for such a project. Members agreed that in principle it looked very good. The Chairman advised Mark that this Committee’s budget had been set for the year and it would be difficult to find money for such a project at this time. However, the Council could investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant or putting the item on the Committee’s five year plan. ***Mark and Tom thanked the Council for giving them the opportunity to make their presentation. Members of the Council thanked them for giving an excellent presentation.***

Mr & Mrs Hawksworth of 63 Scott Close, Ditton attended the meeting to bring to the Council’s attention the size of the trees and shrubs adjacent to their property. They are particularly concerned about the cherry tree which has grown very large and its roots are encroaching on their property; the shrubs in the near the corner of their property, which are now taller than the fence; and the silver birch tree which is located between their boundary and the dog loo which is very tall and obscuring sunlight from their garden. Members of the Council advised that they appreciated Mr & Mrs Hawksworth’s concerns and would ask the Grounds staff to trim the shrubs back quite severely and the Administrative Assistant would



arrange for the Tonbridge and Malling Tree Officer to look at the trees to see how they can be reduced in size. **Mr and Mrs Hawksworth thanked the Council for their time. Members thanked Mr and Mrs Hawksworth for bringing their concerns to the Council's attention.**

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104. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

105. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 110 Correspondence for Noting, Letter from the Bowls Club, because they are members of the bowls club.

106. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

(b) Multi-sports Court Fees

The current hire rates for the multi-sports court were CIRCULATED.

RESOLVED to increase the fees charged, as set out in the following chart, from 1st August, but not to increase the charges for individual's tennis or coins this year, but introduce a new rate for group tennis coaching sessions*.

SPORTS FACILITIES		HOURLY RATE PEAK	HOURLY RATE OFF-PEAK
TENNIS (Individuals per court)	SENIORS JUNIORS	£7.00 £5.00	£5.00 £4.00
TENNIS* (Clubs for group coaching sessions)	SENIORS JUNIORS	£10.00 £ 7.00	£ 8.00 £ 6.00
5 ASIDE FOOTBALL	SENIORS JUNIORS	£15.00 £12.00	£12.00 £ 10.00
BASKET BALL	SENIORS JUNIORS	£15.00 £12.00	£12.00 £10.00
NETBALL	SENIORS JUNIORS	£15.00 £12.00	£12.00 £10.00
FOOTBALL TRAINING DITTON CLUBS	SENIORS JUNIORS	£10.00 £ 8.00	£ 8.00 £ 7.00
FOOTBALL TRAINING	SENIORS JUNIORS	£15.00 £12.00	£12.00 £10.00

107. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 26, Item 50(a)]

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Mulcuck had re-drafted a management plan for the quarry and this had been sent to Medway Valley Countryside Partnership for their advice and input. The MVCP had advised that they may be able to obtain a grant to cover the cost of the fee for working on the management plan.

(b) New Road Recreation Ground [Page 26, Item 50(b)]Wall behind Scout Hut

It was **NOTED** that work had not yet commenced on the wall.

(c) Village Green (Page 26, Item 50(c))(i) Trimming of Trees

It was **NOTED** that the trees are scheduled to be trimmed on 6th and 8th November.

(ii) Replacement of Christmas Lights for tree

It was **NOTED** that information is still awaited from David Stephens.

(d) Provision for Youth (Page 26, Item 50(d))

Discussion took place on the idea put forward by Monster Play for a goal end at NRRG. Concern was expressed about the suitability of putting a facility in NRRG in case it attracts youths to congregate in an anti-social manner. It was suggested that Cobdown Sports and Social Club be approached to see if they would consider having the half-ball court sited on their land.

(e) Play Area Inspection – Repairs Required at NRRG(i) Top step of path from Ditton Place

It was **NOTED** that the Grounds Staff had undertaken a temporary repair to the uneven surface where the top step met the path.

(ii) Rubber Matting in Play Area

A quotation had been received from P Mackelden to remove the rubber matting and replace with tarmac at a cost of £1,050.00 plus VAT. Members felt this to be an expensive option and suggested the Grounds staff be asked if they can remove and dispose of the rubber matting.

RESOLVED the Grounds Staff be asked if it is possible for them to remove the rubber matting and safely dispose of it.

108. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Revised quotation for replacement fence

A revised quotation to replace the fence and move the gate had been received from West Sole Fencing at £10,844.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED not to proceed with this project at this time, in view of the high cost and the decision by the Council not to incur any unbudgeted expenditure.

(b) Quotation for main footpath

Two quotations to lay a hard surfaced main path for the allotments were **READ**:-

1. £1,700.00 plus VAT
2. £2,745.00 plus VAT

RESOLVED because of the high cost of this project it would not be possible to accept either of these quotations at this time but to ask the Grounds Staff if they are able to lay a concrete or rubber matting type path and if so investigate costs.

109. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

RESOLVED the format be the same as in previous years and the Councillors judging should take place during the first and second weeks of July, commencing Monday 3rd July. The final judging to take place in the third week of July.

110. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

- Local Authority Byelaws in England:
A Discussion Paper

Cllr Mulcuck had **READ** this paper and his comments were **CIRCULATED**. He suggested a small sub-committee be formed to discuss the document. Cllr Baker agreed to **READ** the document and give his comments.

Ditton Bowls Club

- Bridleway Adjacent to Bowls Club Car Park

A copy of a letter, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the bowls club are concerned with the condition of the bridleway near to the bowls club entrance and the speed at which allotment holders travel through their car park. Discussion took place and it was noted that the grounds supervisor had said that the material offered by the bowls club was not suitable for him to use on the bridleway.

RESOLVED

TO REPLY TO THE BOWLS CLUB THANKING THEM FOR THEIR OFFER OF MATERIAL BUT

ADVISE IT WAS NOT SUITABLE AND THE GROUNDS SUPERVISOR WILL INVESTIGATE OTHER OPTIONS FOR RECTIFYING THE PROBLEM. ALSO TO SUGGEST THE BOWLS CLUB ADVISE THE SECRETARY OF THE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS TENANTS SOCIETY OF THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT SPEED OF TRAFFIC THROUGH THE CAR PARK.

111. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** the following items and **REPORT** back on any items of interest:

- Kent County Playing Fields Association - The Playing Field – Spring 2006
- Playwork South East - Summer 2006 - issue 7
- Open Spaces Society - Summer 2006 – Vol. 28 No. 6
- Annual Report & Accounts 2005
- Agenda for AGM on 5/7/2006
- Canine Crisis Council - Newsletter – May 2006, No. 35

112. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Chairman
3rd July 2006

