

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 15TH MAY 2006

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), DAY DESAVE, MRS MULCUCK
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

45. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.57pm.

46. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

47. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

48. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Mrs Mulcuck and **SECONDED** by Cllr DeSave. Cllr Mrs Thwaites accepted the **NOMINATION** and there being no further nominations, was duly elected.

49. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

(b) Review of Five Year Plan

This committee's current five year plan was **CIRCULATED** and **READ** and the items currently included were reviewed.

RESOLVED to regularly review this committee's five year plan.

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

- (a)
- Ditton Court Quarry
- [Page 459, Item 671(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the Grounds staff had planted some seeds in the trial wild flower meadow area and plug plants were expected to be delivered shortly, which are to be planted by members of the quarry working party.

It was also **NOTED** that Cllr Mulcuck had drafted a management plan but was waiting to add details from the geological survey.

- (b)
- New Road Recreation Ground
- [Page 459, Item 671(b)]

- (i)
- Wall behind Scout Hut

It was **NOTED** that this work should be started next month.

- (ii)
- Concrete base

It was **NOTED** that this had now been removed.

- (c)
- Village Green
- (Page 459, Item 671(c))

- (i)
- Trimming of Trees

It was **NOTED** that the contractor had agreed to hold his quotation for trimming the trees on the green and the conifers near to the petanque piste and had scheduled to do this work in the autumn.

- (ii)
- Replacement of Christmas Lights for tree

It was **NOTED** that a quotation is awaited from David Stephens. It was suggested that if and when the lights are replaced they consist of all white bulbs rather than multi-coloured ones.

- (d)
- Provision for Youth
- (Page 460, Item 671(f))

It was **NOTED** that the Youth worker for this area had raised the matter of a youth shelter in Ditton at the recent KCC Local Board Meeting. This idea had been discussed at a previous meeting and Members still felt that there was not a suitable area for another youth shelter, apart from where the existing 'fidget station' is sited. Members again discussed the option of providing a ball park but it was agreed more information is needed and this item should be considered again at the next meeting.

51. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

- (a)
- Revised quotation for replacement fence

It was **NOTED** that two different contractors had visited the site and quotations were awaited.

- (b)
- Water – stop cock/meter

The Grounds Supervisor advised that his staff could install a stop cock and water meter to isolate the allotments water supply at an estimated cost of £350.00 - £200 to hire a digger, £50.00 to purchase a water meter and £100.00 to infill the area.

RESOLVED the Chairman and Clerk will review this Committee's budget to see where £350.00 can be found, and then to proceed with this project as soon possible.

52. **WATERING OF CRICKET PITCH**

The Grounds Supervisor advised that the only way he can water the cricket square is by gaining access to turn on the water at a point just inside the bowls club. He then has to take the supply from a small manhole cover on the top edge of the recreation ground. He explained how he could change this to take the supply direct from the manhole cover on the edge of the recreation ground which would require the purchase of materials at a cost of £50.00.

RESOLVED the Grounds Supervisor to go ahead with this project.

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

It was **NOTED** that two different quotations had been given to upgrade the alarm system in the Grounds Staff's compound. The first one was to increase the areas covered by the alarms including all of the Cedar Rooms, which was £1,077.00. The second more recent quotation was to upgrade the existing panel and have the equipment store alarms monitored for £645.00. It was also **NOTED** that a BT Line extension would be required for the second option.

RESOLVED to accept the second quotation to upgrade the panel and have the alarm monitored. The cost of this and the BT line to be met from the additional £1,000.00 in this year's property/security/maintenance budget.

54. **DAMAGE TO MACHINERY STORE ROOF IN GROUNDS STAFF COMPOUND**

The Grounds Supervisor outlined the damage caused to the machinery store roof following a break-in and photographs of the damage were CIRCULATED. He confirmed that the roof had been repaired and no equipment was damaged or stolen. The Administrative Assistant confirmed that the incident had been reported to the police. Members agreed this highlighted the need to update the alarm system and that the security fence for this area may need to be brought forward in the current five year plan.

55. **ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTION**

The Children's Play Area Safety Inspection Report was **READ** and the areas in need of attention were **NOTED**. The Grounds Supervisor CIRCULATED some photographs of the worst areas: the rubber mats in the play area at New Road Recreation Ground

are lifting up and becoming a trip hazard as well as being an eyesore; and also the top step of the path leading up to the rec. from Ditton Place. This has lifted, causing a trip hazard. The Grounds Supervisor advised that he could do a temporary repair to the

step but the rubber mats would need a special skip for disposal and a contractor to level and re-tarmac the area beneath.

RESOLVED the Grounds Staff to do a temporary repair to the top step and quotations be obtained for a long term repair to the step and to remove the rubber mats and tarmac the area.

56. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

KCC West Kent PROW Office - PROW Vegetation Clearance – Ditton Contract
A COPY OF THE CONTRACT WAS **READ** AND THE NUMBER OF CUTS REQUIRED ON EACH PATH PER YEAR WERE **NOTED**.

RESOLVED THE GROUNDS SUPERVISOR WILL WORK OUT A SCHEDULE OF WHEN HIS STAFF WILL CARRY OUT THIS WORK TO FIT IN WITH THEIR OTHER DUTIES.

57. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** the following items and report back on any items of interest.

Action with Communities in Rural Kent PC - Rural News No. 74

NSALG - Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 2

National Playing Fields Assoc. - Fields Focus – Spring 2006
- Notice of AGM – 2nd June 2006

RoSPA - Staying Alive –Spring 2006

58. **CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 8.56pm.

Chairman
5th June 2006