

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 17TH MAY 2010

PRESENT: A R MULCUCK (VICE-CHAIR), MRS B HOUGHTON, N NEWMAN, M J PORTER (EX-OFFICIO)
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR), MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMIN. ASST)

46. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by Cllr Mulcuck at 7.46pm.

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllrs Stone, Throssell and Thwaites. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref 72 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

48. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

49. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr Mulcuck asked Cllr Porter to take the chair for this item. Cllr Mulcuck was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Newman and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Houghton. There being no further nominations, Cllr Mulcuck was duly elected Vice-Chair for 2010/2011. Cllr Porter then handed the chair back to Cllr Mulcuck.

50. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis**

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

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

(a) **Ditton Court Quarry** [Page 309, Item 628(a)]

It was **NOTED** that a meeting of the quarry working party was to take place the following morning. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the Bird Discovery Day was to take place on 30th May and that this event is publicised in a booklet from Valley of Visions (Landscape Partnership Scheme), which promotes outdoor events, walks and talks in the area. It was suggested that it be requested that Ditton Quarry Nature Reserve be included in the list of sites given at the beginning of the booklet, in future publications.



- (b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 309, 628(b)]

It was **NOTED** that work should commence in the summer.

- (c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 310, Item 628(c)]

It was **NOTED** that the seat had not been ordered because the Administrative Assistant is still waiting for the wording for one of the plaques from Cllr Cordwell. It was suggested that the seat be ordered and the plaque be engraved at a later date. The Grounds Supervisor said that his staff would probably not be able to install the seat until the autumn now.

- (d) Annual Playground Inspection [Page 311, Item 632]

An e-mailed response from the playground inspector answering some of the queries raised by the committee at the last meeting was **CIRCULATED** and **READ**. The comments made about the age of the equipment and the need for its replacement in the future, were **NOTED**. Cllr Mulcuck said he is to attend a funding meeting soon and will see if there are any grants for play equipment currently available.

52. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that no matters had been raised. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the Administrative Assistant needed to obtain confirmation from DATs that they are happy to have the picnic bench in the allotments.

53. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the independent judge has confirmed he will undertake the final judging on Monday 26th July 2010, at 1pm.

RESOLVED the Councillors will undertake their nominations during the two weeks commencing Monday 5th July.

54. **SNOW CLEARANCE USING A SNOW PLOUGH** – Requested by Cllr Stone

Copy correspondence including a draft schedule and agreement between KCC and contractors for snow clearing using a snow plough, which had previously been **CIRCULATED** was **READ**. Discussion took place on issues that might arise if the Parish Council was contracted to clear snow with a snow plough attached to the tractor, including training, who decides which roads would be cleared and liability.

RESOLVED to investigate this further.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Bedford of Woodlands Road, who had already submitted a letter to the Parish Council, attended to speak about his concerns of anti-social activities in the quarry late at night, usually over the weekend. Mr Bedford was advised that his letter had been forwarded to the PCSO and Community Warden for Ditton and all incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police directly as well as the Parish Council. This will help highlight the quarry as a trouble “hot spot” that may require regular police monitoring. Members advised they would also bring this matter to the Quarry Working Party’s attention.

Members thanked Mr Bedford for bringing this matter to their attention and Mr Bedford thanked the Council for listening to his concerns.

55. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Mr R V Bedford : Letter re anti social activities in the Quarry
A letter from Mr Bedford which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED TO ADVISE THE QUARRY WORKING PARTY OF THIS MATTER AND TO PLACE AN ARTICLE IN THE GAZETTE AND DO A LETTER DROP TO PROPERTIES THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY PROBLEMS IN THE QUARRY ASKING RESIDENTS TO NOTIFY THE POLICE AND PARISH COUNCIL OF ANY PROBLEMS.

Mrs Canga : Request to have trees on bank of quarry (overlooking Acorn Grove) trimmed down

RESOLVED TO ASK THE QUARRY WORKING PARTY FOR THEIR VIEWS ON CUTTING BACK THE TREES AT THE MEETING TO BE HELD THE NEXT DAY.

Kent Men of the Trees : Trees in the Village Competition 2010

RESOLVED TO ENTER THIS COMPETITION AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Dog Warden : Dog Waste Bin near to Quarry Entrance

A suggestion to move the dog waste bin by the Multi-sports courts next to the existing bin outside the quarry entrance had been put to the Dog Warden, because the existing bin does not appear sufficient to cope with the amount of waste. The Dog Warden has confirmed that this Council’s staff can move the bin provided she is advised of when it is to happen.

RESOLVED TO MOVE THE BIN FROM THE MULTI-SPORTS TO THE QUARRY.

The Vice-Chair moved that an additional item of correspondence be considered:-

Ditton Utd : Letter advising that Ditton Utd had been dissolved

A letter from the Secretary of Ditton Utd Football Club was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the club had been dissolved and would no longer require use of the pitch on Saturday afternoons. Members were saddened to hear that the club had dissolved after so many years.

RESOLVED TO ADVERTISE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ADULT PITCH FOR SATURDAY AFTERNOONS.

56. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Vice-Chair will **READ** the following item and **REPORT** back any items of interest:-

NSALG : Allotment & Leisure Gardner, Issue No 2 2010

57. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Chairman
7th June 2010