

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL 2010

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J THWAITES (CHAIR), A R MULCUCK (VICE-CHAIR), R ANGEL,
MRS B HOUGHTON, AND B STONE
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR), MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMIN. ASST.)

624. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.00pm.

625. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Newman and Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref 67 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

626. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 629 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment. Cllr Stone declared personal interests in the following items:- 630 Football (a), (b) and 633 Correspondence for Decision as his neighbour is connected with Ditton Minors Football Club and also item 633 Correspondence for Decision as he is acquainted with Liz Day and Paul Hatcher is a neighbour.

627. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis for month 12, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and the explanations of why some budget headings were overspent, **NOTED**.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 286, Item 570(a)]

It was **NOTED** that there should have been a Quarry WP meeting earlier in the day but it was cancelled and will be rescheduled soon. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that John Dunster (who was a quarry volunteer) sadly died in the hospice last week and the quarry volunteers may want to plant something in the quarry in his memory. It was also suggested that a letter of condolence be sent and an acknowledgement of Mr Dunster's volunteer work in the quarry be put in the next Ditton Gazette.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 286, 570(b)]

It was **NOTED** that the Council has been awarded a grant from the War Memorials Trust Small Grants scheme so the planned maintenance can now go ahead. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the Administrative Assistant has advised the contractor and is awaiting a response as to when the work can commence.

(c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 286, Item 570(c)]

NOTED that the seat will be ordered once Cllr Cordwell has confirmed the wording he would like on a plaque.

(d) Trees KBRG [Page 286, Item 570(d)]

It was **NOTED** that the remaining trees between the petanque piste and the rear of Pear Tree Avenue properties would not now be cut down until the Autumn.

629. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that Gallaghers have agreed to assist with the preparation of the land for the proposed extension to the allotment site. Cllr Mrs Thwaites said she would speak to the Chairman of DATs to see if they could find any sources of funding for the fence that would be required. Other sources of funding would also be investigated.

630. **FOOTBALL**(a) Training on Kiln Barn Road Recreation Ground

Cllr Stone said that he had noticed that many teams use the Kiln Barn recreation Ground for football training, including some that do not actually pay for a pitch and play their matches there. He said that whilst he could see no objection to the teams training on the recreation ground they should not be taking over the whole ground preventing other members of the public from using it. It was suggested that they be told not to use any more room than the size of a football pitch. It was also suggested that all teams be asked on which evenings they train to try to avoid overcrowding on the recreation ground on certain days and also to advise them to avoid Tuesday evenings when the cricket team usually practice. They should also be reminded that the goal mouths should not be played on once they have been re-seeded.

RESOLVED to write to each football club setting out the above points.

(b) Request for additional use of small pitch on Kiln Barn Road Recreation Ground

Holtwood Rangers currently have two junior teams using the small pitch at Kiln Barn Road, one on alternate Saturdays and one on alternate Sundays. They have asked if an additional team could play on alternate Saturdays.

RESOLVED to accede to this request.

631. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that funds had been put into this years budget but a request for sponsorship had previously been made to Scottish & Newcastle asking if they would be able to sponsor the event as they had done last year but as yet they had not responded. It was **NOTED** that the independent judge was available on either Monday 19th or Monday 26th July to carry out the final judging.

RESOLVED to keep the same format as last year and ask the independent judge to do the final judging on Monday 26th July.

632. **ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION**

The Annual Inspection report which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and areas that may need some attention were **NOTED**

RESOLVED to remove the kick wall at New Road Recreation Ground, as per the recommendation in the report and also to ask the inspector that carried out the report for clarification on some points.

633. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Mrs Liz Day

: Letter re various issues around the village

A letter from Mrs Day was **READ** and her concerns about the tree planted in memory of Doris Cooper, the ford, the hawthorn hedge and footpath MR100, **NOTED**.

RESOLVED TO RESPOND ADVISING THAT A NEW TREE WOULD BE PURCHASED TO REPLACE THE ONE THAT DIED BUT THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THERE BEING A PLAQUE, THE CLOSURE OF THE FORD IS ONGOING WITH KENT HIGHWAYS, MVCP WILL BE ASKED IF THEY CAN ASSIST WITH THE HAWTHORN HEDGE AND TMBC PLANNING AND KCC PROW WILL BE CONTACTED ABOUT THE FOOTPATH.

Mrs Jan McCormack

: Offer of pic-nic bench

An e-mail from Mrs McCormack offering a sturdy pic-nic bench to the Parish Council was **READ**. Discussion took place about possible locations where the bench could be put, including the petanque piste, the grass area at the car park entrance and New Road recreation ground on the tarmac where the kick wall is to be removed.

RESOLVED TO PLACE THE BENCH ON THE OLD RECREATION GROUND ON THE TARMAC AREA WHERE THE KICK WALL IS TO BE REMOVED.

Paul Hatcher

: Request to hold fun run over May bank holiday weekend
(in aid of Youth Project)

READ and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF USING THE GROUNDS BEING ADHERED TO.

Ditton Minors : Request to hold football tournament over May bank holiday weekend in 2011

READ and **NOTED** that although this year's tournament has been cancelled they would like to hold it next year, if possible at a later date.

RESOLVED TO AGREE TO THE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT SUBJECT TO A FEE FOR PITCH MARKING AND TO ADVISE THAT THERE MAY BE ANOTHER FUNDRAISING EVENT TAKING PLACE ON THE MONDAY BUT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE TWO EVENTS TO RUN ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER. ALSO TO ADVISE A LATER DATE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AS URGENT WORK TO THE GROUNDS NEEDS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE THE START OF THE CRICKET SEASON.

The Chair asked for an additional item of date sensitive correspondence to be considered:-

Ms H Delaney : Request to have bouncy castle on grass in front of the Don Carman Hall, during a child's party on coming Saturday

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF USING THE GROUNDS BEING ADHERED TO.

634. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

The Kent Men of The Trees : Arbor – Winter/Spring 2010

Fields in trust : Annual Review 2009
Fit March 2010

635. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Chairman
5th May 2010