

## DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J F THWAITES (Chair), A R MULCUCK (Vice-Chair), R ANGEL, MRS B HOUGHTON, N NEWMAN AND B STONE  
MR N P SAUNDERS (Grounds Supervisor), MRS N GREENAWAY (Admin. Assistant)

### 456. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.44pm.

### 457. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Cllr Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book ref 55 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### 458. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mulcuck declared a personal interest in item 459(a) as the cost of water to the Bowls Club was discussed as part of the financial analysis – he is a member of the bowls club.

### 459. FINANCE

#### (a) Financial Analysis

**CIRCULATED** and **READ**. It was **NOTED** that the water bill for bowls club, recreation ground and allotments was exceptionally high. Discussion took place and there seemed no reason for an excessive use.

**RESOLVED** the Grounds Supervisor will inspect the water meter and the Administrative Assistant will contact the water company about the unusually high charges. The possibility of installing a separate water meter for the allotments will be investigated.

#### (b) Quotation to repair/replace safety surfaces in KBRG Play Area

A quotation to replace the safety surfaces in the Kiln Barn Road Play Area at a cost of £6,945.00 plus VAT was **READ**. It was **NOTED** that the surfaces are deteriorating and were mentioned in last year's safety inspection. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that this item was included on the five year plan but no funds were allocated to any projects for the coming financial year. The Administrative Assistant advised that she had tried to obtain additional quotations but contractors had not been forthcoming in providing them.



**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that if this is highlighted as a safety hazard in this year's safety inspection to ask the full council if the funds can be found to undertake this important work.

(c) Roof at NRRG Changing Rooms

It was **NOTED** that this work had now been completed.

(d) Snow Plough Attachment for Tractor

Cllr Mulcuck said he thought it would be very beneficial for the council to have this equipment to keep the car park clear and some of the worst effected areas of the village during bad snow fall, as had been recently experienced. It was **NOTED** that the Council may not be able to clear snow from public highways and pavements as the Council were advised during the planning meeting that took place prior to the this meeting, that KHS are solely responsible for the highways and anyone else would be liable if they cleared them. Cllr Stone will forward information about this issue to the Parish Office before this matter can be considered further.

The Administrative Assistant advised that the cost of a snow plough could be anything from £800.00 up to £1,500.00.

It was also suggested that Cllr Peter Homewood be asked about KCC's management of clearing the roads/ pavements during the bad weather, when he attends the next full council meeting.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 181, Item 383(a)]

(i) Land on License (reply from Tarmac)

It was **NOTED** that Tarmac had replied stating that they would discuss this matter internally and respond in due course.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 182, 383(b)]

**NOTED** nothing to report on this item.

(c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 182, Item 383(c)]

It was **NOTED** that no further offers of donations towards a replacement seat had been received.

(d) Trees KBRG [Page 182, Item 383(d)]

It was **NOTED** that now Graeme was back at work he would be able to undertake the cutting down and trimming of the trees. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that this work would hopefully be undertaken late February/early March and that a wood chipper would be required to dispose of the arisings from the trees.

(e) Damaged Seat in Kiln Barn Road Play Area [Page 182, Item 321(e)]

It was **NOTED** that a replacement hardwood seat had been made and was ready for collection.

461. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

Cllr Stone asked for clarification of why this Council has a rule that fees charged for services such as allotments can only be increased in line with increases imposed on other charges made by the council. He added that TMBC had recently increased its charges for items such as swimming entrance fees by up to 30%. The Administrative Assistant will speak to the Clerk for clarification on this issue. It was suggested that the allotment fees may have to be increased if it is proven the allotment tenants have substantially increased their use of water which has led to the large increase in water charges.

It was **NOTED** that the mesh path was now in place and working well.

462. **WINNER 2009 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the winner of this year's Christmas Lights Competition was Mr and Mrs Smith of 34 Fernleigh Rise.

463. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

KCC, PROW

: Highways Act 1980 – Section 119

Proposed Diversion of Public Bridleway MR108 (part) Ditton

The proposed diversion of part of Public Bridleway MR108 was **READ** and **NOTED**. The Chair then **READ** Cllr Mrs Throssell's objections to the proposed diversion on the grounds that "not everyone wishes to walk on a path where cycles and pushchairs have access, horses could be frightened by wheeled vehicles and ramblers and birdwatchers would lose the solitude of a woodland walk if the path were diverted".

**RESOLVED** TO SUBMIT CLLR MRS THROSSELL'S COMMENTS AS THIS COUNCIL'S OBJECTION TO THE DIVERSION OF THE FOOTPATH.

The Chair reported that Mr Gallagher had visited the allotment site following a request from the Council for assistance with land preparation for more allotments. He indicated it might be something he could help with but did not give a definite response. Mr Gallagher also raised the issue of why the Parish Council had objected to an earlier application to divert part of MR108.

Mr Graham Cooper

: Rabbit Control in the Quarry

**RESOLVED** TO ASK MR COOPER TO CONTINUE WITH THE RABBIT CONTROL IN THE QUARRY.

Mary Tate, MVCP

: Request to hold Wildlife Activity Day in the quarry  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**RESOLVED** TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE QUARRY WORKING PARTY'S APPROVAL.

464. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Vice-Chair will **READ** the following item and report on any interesting articles:-

Kent Men of The Trees : Arbor - Autumn 2009

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

Fields in Trust : Fit - November 2009, December 2009

Fairplay for Children : e-letter January 2010

465. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Chairman  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2010