

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 JULY 2010

PRESENT: CLLR MRS J T THWAITES (CHAIR), A R MULCUCK (VICE-CHAIR), P HATCHER,
N NEWMAN AND B STONE
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR) AND MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMIN. ASSIST.)

160. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.41pm.

161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Mrs Houghton and Cllr Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref. 80 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

162. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 165, Allotment Matters, as her husband has an allotment.

163. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

The financial analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

164. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 43, Item 105(a)]

It was **NOTED** that there was nothing to report from the Quarry Working Party.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 43, Item 105(b)]

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

(c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 44, Item 105(c)]

It was **NOTED** the new seat should be delivered this week but the Grounds Staff may not be able to install it until the Autumn.



(d) Annual Playground Inspection [Page 44, Item 105(d)]

It was **NOTED** no further information was yet available.

(e) Snow Clearance using a snow plough [Page 44, Item 105(e)]

Cllr Stone advised that an officer from Kent Highway Services would like to meet with members of the Council in September (when hopefully all pot hole issues will be resolved) to discuss this further.

165. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** no issues had been raised. Cllr Mrs Thwaites advised that the allotments were currently being well maintained.

166. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the final judging was to take place on Monday 26th July and the judge will meet with Cllr Mrs Thwaites at the Parish Office at 1pm on that day. Discussion also took place on the prizes to be awarded to the top three placed gardens.

167. **TARMAC AREA IN FRONT OF GOAL END**

It was **NOTED** that the independent play inspector had visited the recreation ground to give advice on the worn area in front of the tarmac for the goal end. She recommended the best solution would be to extend the tarmac out. Another alternative would be to build area up and install grass mats but it would be harder to achieve a satisfactory result with this option.

RESOLVED to obtain quotations to extend the tarmac area.

A photograph of the MUGA fence was **CIRCULATED** and damage where people have climbed over was **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation for repairs to the fence.

168. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Cllr Brine

: Model Aircraft flown on recreation ground

An e-mail from Cllr Brine expressing concern about model aircraft being flown on the recreation ground and the possible danger to the public was **READ**. It was **NOTED** that the Parish Council's Byelaws state that "no person shall, without reasonable excuse, ride a cycle or bring cause to be brought into the ground a motor cycle, motor vehicle, trailer or any **other mechanically propelled vehicle**" this would cover remote controlled aircraft and cars being used on the recreation grounds.

RESOLVED TO PLACE A SIGN ON THE MUGA FENCE AND A NOTICE IN THE DITTON GAZETTE ADVISING THAT REMOTE CONTROLLED MODEL AIRCRAFT AND CARS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON DITTON RECREATION GROUNDS. ALSO TO ADVISE THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS THAT THIS IS THE CASE.

Elena Marsh : Barbed wire & holly bush on recreation ground
 An e-mail from a resident concerned about barbed wire and a holly bush on the recreation ground was **READ** and photographs of the area showing the wire and hollybush were **CIRCULATED**. Discussion took place on the safety implications of the barbed wire. It was **NOTED** that the holly bush was originally planted by the neighbouring resident to provide security at the rear of their property.
RESOLVED THE GROUNDS STAFF WILL REMOVE THE BARBED WIRE FROM THE FENCE AND TO WRITE TO ALL THREE RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE HOLLY BUSH FOR THEIR VIEWS.

The Chair moved that the following additional items of correspondence be considered as there would not be a meeting of this Committee in August:-

Kent Countryside Management P/ships : Kent Free Trees Scheme
 It was **NOTED** that the Parish Council could ask for up to 25 free trees under this scheme and individuals could also ask for up to 3 trees personally.
RESOLVED THE GROUNDS SUPERVISOR WILL MAKE A SELECTION OF 25 OF APPROPRIATE SPECIES OF TREE AND A REQUEST FOR THESE WILL BE SUBMITTED.

Kent BTCV : Tree and Pond Warden Schemes
RESOLVED TO PUT DETAILS IN THE DITTON GAZETTE AND ALSO TO SEND DETAILS TO MRS MULCUCK WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SHOWN AN INTEREST.

169. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

KCC PROW Definition : Changes to routes on Definitive Map
READ and NOTED.

MVCP : Annual Report
READ and NOTED.

170. **CLOSURE**

The Chair reminded members that the next Monday's Personnel Meeting had been cancelled as several members would be attending a meeting at TMBC about the "Character of Ditton".

Before the meeting closed, a discussion took place around possible development in both EMR and Cobdown and it was agreed to write to TMBC asking for any further details on possible applications, also that the Council looks to arrange a meeting with EMR to discuss their plans.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

