

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 MARCH 2010

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

566. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.54pm.

567. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllrs Angel and Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref. 63 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

568. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

569. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis**

The Financial Analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED** was **READ** and the explanation of the expenditure incurred for replacing the MUGA surface was **NOTED**.

(b) **Football Pitch Fees**

Information on the expenditure and income on football pitch fees for the current season was **CIRCULATED** along with a comparison of what other local Parishes charge for their pitches. Cllr Stone said that he felt the charges should be substantially increased to cover all staffing costs including NIC etc. and that all services and charges provided by the Council need to be reviewed. The Administrative Assistant said she understood that all services were reviewed by the Councils Review Committee, during the course of last year. Lengthy discussion took place.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Cllr David Nunn, who is not a member of this Committee but was attending as a member of the public, advised that the review committee's work was ongoing and not yet complete.

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Cllr Mulcuck **PROPOSED** that the Senior teams fee be increased to £200.00 per season and the Junior's to £90.00 per season. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Thwaites. The proposal was not carried.

Discussion on how the fees should be increased continued.

The Administrative Assistant advised that any proposed substantial increases should be recommended to the Full Council.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE REVIEW OF FOOTBALL PITCH FEES FOR THE COMING SEASON SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE FULL COUNCIL.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 258, Item 515(a)]

(i) Land on License (reply from Tarmac if available)

It was **NOTED** that no response from Tarmac had been received.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 259, 515(b)]

It was **NOTED** that the War Memorials Trust have requested some additional information on the cleaning methods to be used before they can process the grant application. The Administrative Assistant has asked for the required information from the company that provided the initial quotation. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that it is unlikely that this will be completed in this financial year and it will therefore be necessary to slip forward the grant already received.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THE GRANT RECEIVED FROM CO CLLR HOMEWOOD TOWARDS THE CLEANING AND RESTORATION WORKS BE SLIPPED FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR.

(c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 259, Item 515(c)]

It was **NOTED** that more information from the seat manufacturer was awaited.

(d) Trees KBRG [Page 259, Item 515(d)]

It was **NOTED** that the trees affecting the gardens behind the petanque piste had been removed by the Grounds Staff and a quotation to remove some further trees that the grounds staff could not do, had been requested. It was suggested that the remaining trees budget could be used to cover this cost if the quote did not exceed the remaining budget.

(e) Salt/Grit Bins [Page 259, Item 517]

It was **NOTED** that there would be nothing to report as Kent Highways are currently concentrating on repairing potholes but have said they will discuss the issues of snow clearance when all repairs are undertaken.

571. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Water Supply [Page 258, Item 514(b)]

A communication from the Chairman of DATs, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and the comments regarding the installation of a water meter **NOTED**. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the installation of the meter is only to monitor the use of water at this stage.

It was **FURTHER NOTED** that comments had been made about the installation of the mesh path re-enforcement and that it had been slippery. The Administrative Assistant advised that she had contacted the supplier of the mesh and they had advised that it would not be so slippery once the grass grows through and also that they would usually recommend installation in the Spring when the grass would grow more quickly. It was **NOTED** that no installation recommendations had been supplied when the path was delivered and the path had been installed in the winter when the Grounds staff were not so busy with mowing etc and it was thought it would cause less disruption to the allotment holders.

RESOLVED to monitor the condition of the path once the grass starts to grow through.

572. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Holtwood Rangers : Request to have two five a side pitches on their Fun Day 15th May 2010

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF USING THE RECREATION GROUND AND TWO SMALL PITCHES WOULD BE MARKED AT A CHARGE OF £17.50 PER PITCH

Ditton Minors : Request to hold Charity Football match in memory of Mick Grantham

A request to hold a Charity Football match in memory of Mick Grantham on Saturday 17th April, with proceeds going to the Heart of Kent Hospice was **READ**. It was **NOTED** that they would also like permission to have a burger van in the car park near to the multi sports and also for the Heart of Kent Hospice to display banners on the multi sports. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that this pitch is Ditton Minors pitch to use for the season and they would not be playing on the Sunday if they played this match on the Saturday afternoon.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF USING THE RECREATION GROUND.

: Request to hold training/trials day

Details of a proposed trials day to be held by Ditton Minors in conjunction with Maidstone Football Club were **READ**. It was **NOTED** that no assistance from the Council's staff would be required and the club would also be hiring the Acorn Room.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF USING THE RECREATION GROUND.

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

KCC PROW : Regulation Committee Member Panel – Friday 19th March 2010
It was **NOTED** that this meeting will be visiting PROW MR108 and looking at the proposal to divert part of this path in Oaken Wood and this was an invitation to the Parish Council to attend as it had previously submitted an objection to the proposed diversion.

RESOLVED NO-ONE FROM THIS COUNCIL IS ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

573. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

Open Spaces Society : Open Space, Spring 2010, Vol.29 No.7

Fields in Trust : fit - February 2010

574. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman
7th April 2010