

**DITTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010

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

242. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.46pm.

243. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies as all members were present.

244. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 247, Allotment Matters, as her husband has an allotment.

245. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 67, Item 164(a)]

It was **NOTED** that there is to be a meeting of the Quarry Working Party on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, meeting at 9am to walk around the quarry first. The Administrative Assistant advised that a resident had pointed out that there was no sign post from the road to indicate where the entrance to the Nature Reserve is. The Administrative Assistant reported that she had advised that the Nature Reserve is sign posted from the Community Centre Car Park. Discussion took place and members did not feel that any further signs were currently needed.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 67, Item 164(b)]

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



(c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 67, Item 164(c)]

It was **NOTED** that the seat has been delivered and the Grounds Staff will install it in the Autumn. It was further **NOTED** that the TMBC litter bin (situated near to the seat) will need to be moved. The Administrative Assistant will speak to TMBC about this.

(d) Annual Playground Inspection [Page 68, Item 164(d)]

Notes of a meeting that Cllr Stone had attended with the independent play inspector, Maria Cook, which had previously been CIRCULATED, were **READ** and **NOTED**. Cllr Stone **REPORTED** that the meeting was very useful and gave him a better understanding of the annual report and when action is required. For example, if something requires *monitoring* this means that the Council's staff should monitor the condition of the equipment in case there is any deterioration prior to the next inspection; *action/maintenance required* means that some action needs to be taken before the next inspection. It was suggested that the Grounds Supervisor and Administrative Assistant go through the report to identify what maintenance can be carried out by the Grounds Staff and what work may require quotations from an external contractor.

(e) Snow Clearance using a snow plough [Page 68, Item 164(e)]

Cllr Stone advised that someone from Highways should be contacting the Council shortly to discuss this further.

(f) Tarmac Area in front Goal End [Page 68, Item 167]

The Administrative Assistant advised that three quotations, from tarmac installation contractors, had been received and that a further quotation from a sports surface company would be obtained the following week. Cllr Stone said that as this had been identified as a potential health & safety issue by the independent play inspector, it needs to be resolved as soon as possible. The Administrative Assistant will investigate if there is a more cost effective solution before the next meeting.

(g) Repairs to MUGA Fence [Page 68, Item 167]

A quotation of £300.00 to repair the damaged fence had been received.

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £300.00 from West Sole Fencing to repair the MUGA fence.

(h) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground [Page 69, Item 168]

It was **NOTED** that the barbed wire had been removed and that the holly bush would be trimmed back in the autumn. Cllr Mulcuck stated that following a site visit it was **NOTED** that the steps built at the rear of the property concerned do encroach on to the recreation ground. However, when the members walked along the edge of the recreation it was evident that other properties had also built steps onto the recreation ground from their properties rear boundaries. Discussion took place on the implications of residents obtaining part of the Council's land 'by stealth'.

**RESOLVED** to seek legal advice on this matter.

247. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Autumn Skip

Discussion took place on the best time to provide the skip. It was suggested that DATs be asked when would be preferable.

248. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

The balance sheet for the Best Kept Garden competition was **CIRCULATED** and it was **NOTED** that there was a surplus this year. It was also **NOTED** that a nice article about this years winners had appeared in the Downs Mail.

249. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Mr Frost : Request to have BBQ on recreation ground just outside Don Carman Hall during Wedding Reception 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
A request to have a BBQ during a wedding reception on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 between 4 – 6.30pm had been received. It was **NOTED** that the BBQ would be provided by Mr Millard who has provided many BBQs on the recreation ground.

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

Mr R Steer : Use of remote control models  
An e-mail from a resident about the use of remote control models was **READ** and **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED** TO RESPOND ADVISING THAT THE REASON FOR PROHIBITING THE USE OF REMOTE CONTROL VEHICLES IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL USERS OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS AND ADVISE THAT SOME OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES MENTIONED ARE ALSO PROHIBITED ON THE RECREATION GROUND BUT IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO POLICE THESE ACTIVITIES ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN DO PATROL THE AREA REGULARLY.

250. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

TMBC : National Dog-Fouling Campaign  
**READ** and **NOTED**.

NSALG : Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 3, 2010  
The Vice-Chair will **READ** this item.

KMOTT : Arbor, Summer 2010  
The Chair will **READ** this item.

251. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2010