

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 FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J T THWAITES (Chair Person), A R MULCUCK (Vice-Chair), R ANGEL, MRS B HOUGHTON AND B STONE
MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMIN. ASSISTANT)

511. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chair, at 7.37pm.

512. 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 59 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

513. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Angel declared a personal interest in item 514(b) as he is a member of the cricket club. Cllrs Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in items 514(b) and 516 (a) and (b) as they are members of the bowls club.

514. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

The financial analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED** was **READ**. Discussion took place on some areas where budgets have been overspent. It was **NOTED** that the provision of salt budget was only used to purchase salt for gritting the car park and paths around the Community Centre and generally all costs associated with the car park are dealt with by the Community Centre Committee's budget.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the budget for provision of salt be transferred to the Community Centre Committee for next year.

It was **NOTED** that the RoSPA Inspector had visited the Kiln Barn Road play area to look at the safety surfaces and in her opinion they were currently low risk and it would not be cost effective to replace them all because of the age of the equipment. However, she did say that some areas may require repair by cutting back of some of the surface and infilling the gap tight up to the curb edge. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that another contractor was to visit the site to quote for such a repair.

Cllr Stone raised a query with regard to the expenditure to resurface the MUGA and the funds from capital reserve to pay for it. The Administrative Assistant will speak to the accounts clerk about this

(b) Water supply to bowls/allotments/recreation ground

It was **NOTED** that Southern Water had inspected the meter and could not find any fault with it.

RESOLVED to look into installing a water meter to establish whether the increased use is by the allotment holders or for watering the cricket square.

(c) Multi Use Games Area(i) Hire Fees

The current hire fees were **CIRCULATED** and **NOTED**. Lengthy discussion took place on the use of the facility by the various sports groups, in particular tennis.

Cllr Mrs Thwaites **PROPOSED** that an increase of 50p be applied to all the current MUGA hire rates. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Houghton. Voting resulted in 2 in **FAVOUR** and 3 **AGAINST**, therefore the proposal was not carried.

More discussion took place.

Cllr Mulcuck **PROPOSED** that an increase of £1.00 for seniors and 50p for juniors be applied to all the current MUGA hire rates, from 1st April 2010. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Thwaites and **CARRIED** by 3 votes in **FAVOUR**, 1 **AGAINST** and 1 **ABSTENTION**.

RESOLVED to spend more time looking at the hire rates next year when more time could be spent on comparisons with other local facilities and income from the various groups that use the facility could be made available to the committee.

(ii) Coin box

It was **NOTED** that the coin box for the floodlights had not been working on several occasions recently and it was thought that it may need replacing, however, the Grounds Supervisor had managed to repair it.

(d) Lease fees

Cllr Stone had asked why lease fees received from the bowls and petanque clubs go to the F&A Committee budget and not Open Spaces. It was **NOTED** that historically, lease fees had always been dealt with by F&A.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the income received from the lease fees from the bowls and petanque clubs should go to the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee budget.

515. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 234, Item 460(a)]

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

It was **NOTED** no further response had been received.

- (b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 234, 460(b)]

NOTED nothing to report on this item.

- (c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 234, Item 460(c)]

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Cordwell had very kindly donated £200.00 towards a new seat. This donation together with that already offered by a local resident would give £400.00 towards the cost of a new seat. The Administrative Assistant **CIRCULATED** details of a commemorative seat that could be purchased for £399.00 plus delivery (£55.00) and cost of a plaque (£34.95).

RESOLVED that if this seat is suitable for the location and the delivery and plaque costs can be met from unspent budgets, to purchase it for £399.00.

- (d) Trees KBRG [Page 234, Item 460(d)]

It was **NOTED** that it is hoped that these trees will be cut down during the first week of March.

- (e) Damaged Seat in Kiln Barn Road Play Area [Page 234, Item 460(e)]

It was **NOTED** that the new seat was in place and a photograph of the seat was **CIRCULATED**. It was further **NOTED** that Mr and Mrs Wood had written to thank the Parish Council for their assistance in replacing this seat.

516. ALLOTMENT MATTERS

- (a) Potholes in Track leading to allotments/bowls club

The Chair **REPORTED** that the pot holes had become worse over the winter and required attention. It was **NOTED** that road chippings can be purchased for £36.00 per ton.

RESOLVED to purchase road chippings to repair the holes and the cost be met from the unspent fencing budget.

- (b) Gate on track being left open

It was **NOTED** that the gate to the track can be left open when the bowls club is in use. However, it had been noticed that the gate was being left open when it should not be. Cllr Mulcuck said he would put a notice up at the bowls club to remind them to shut the gate and the Administrative Assistant will do a notice for the Allotment's notice board to remind them also to shut the gate behind them when the bowls club is not in use.

517. SALT/GRIT BINS

This item had been referred from the Full Council meeting. It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had written to KCC but had not received a response. An e-mail response from KCC to Cllr Stone's enquiry about the Parish Council using a snow plough and treating badly affected areas, was **CIRCULATED** and **READ**. However, it only referred to gritting areas and not the use of a snow plough, therefore Cllr Stone will follow this enquiry up again. It was suggested that this Council should seek clarification from its insurers if it is covered for clearing/treating icy areas.

518. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Holtwood Rangers : Request to have burger van on recreation ground at Fun Day/
Presentation - Saturday 15th May 2010

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE GROUND
BEING LEFT IN THE CONDITION IT WAS FOUND.

519. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Vice-Chair will **READ** the following item:-

NSALG : Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 1 2010

The Chair will **READ** the following items:-

Fair Play for Children : e-letter February 2010

Kent Wildlife Trust : Supporter Day Invitation

520. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Chairman
1st March 2010