

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 21ST JUNE 2010

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J THWAITES (CHAIR), A R MULCUCK (VICE-CHAIR), MRS B HOUGHTON, N NEWMAN AND MRS A THROSSELL
BOROUGH CLLR MRS C GRANT AND MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMIN. ASSISTANT)

101. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.58pm.

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Stone. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book ref. 75 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

103. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 106 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment. Cllr Newman declared a personal interest in item 107 Best Kept Garden Competition as he assists several elderly neighbours with their gardening.

104. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

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

105. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 19, Item 51(a)]

It was **NOTED** that a meeting of the quarry working party had taken place last month and the notes had been **CIRCULATED**. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that a site meeting was required to look at some trees on the bank that are affecting a property in Acorn Grove and the Grounds Supervisor will establish exactly which trees are causing the problem. Cllr Mulcuck **REPORTED** that it had been suggested that the pond be incorporated into the nature reserve but it was felt that this would have too many safety implications and would therefore not be possible.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 20, 51(b)]

It was **NOTED** that the work had been completed. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the contractor had recommended that the cross will need replacing in the near future.

- (c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 20, Item 51(c)]

It was **NOTED** that the seat had been ordered.

- (d) Annual Playground Inspection [Page 20, Item 51(d)]

It was **NOTED** that following questions raised with the Playground Inspector and the subsequent response, Councillor Stone has asked to meet with the Playground Inspector to go through a few of the issues raised. Cllrs Thwaites and Newman said they would also attend the meeting if it is a convenient time for them.

- (e) Snow Clearance using a snow plough [Page 20, Item 54]

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

106. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

Cllr Mulcuck **REPORTED** on items of interest from Allotment & Leisure Gardener that he **READ** following the previous meeting: Awards for All Grants for fencing and when planning permission is required. It was also **NOTED** that in the Clerk publication it had been reported that some authorities were dividing plots into three to meet demand for allotments. It was suggested however, that this Council's full plots are not big enough to divide into three, but a half is acceptable.

It was **NOTED** an allotment tenant had enquired when the bags for non-compostible waste would next be put out, as it had been minuted they would be provided in January. Discussion took place on the best time of year to put bags out/provide a skip as it was thought earlier in the year to dispose of brussel stalks etc might be preferable to Autumn (as this can only be done once per year now).

RESOLVED to contact DATs via their Chairman to see when the majority of tenants would prefer to have the skip provided.

107. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** the memos detailing Councilor's street allocations for their nominations would be sent out the following day.

It was **FURTHER NOTED** that no sponsorship for the competition had been obtained this year. Cllr Newman advised he would not be able to judge gardens he assisted with, and that is why he had declared an interest in this item.

RESOLVED to only award vouchers and plaques to the top three winners again this year and to ensure that Cllr Newman is not given his own/or neighbouring streets to judge.

108. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Church Pre-School : Request to hold sports day on village green, 5th July 2010
Request to hold summer fair on 17th July, 2010
 Requests from Ditton Church Pre-School to hold their sports day (5th July) and their Summer Fair (17th July) on the village green

were **READ**. It was **NOTED** that they would like the Fire Engine and Police Car to be parked in the small access road that cuts across the green during the summer fair.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS AND THAT THE POLICE ARE HAPPY THAT THEIR VEHICLE AND THE FIRE ENGINE WILL NOT CAUSE AN OBSTRUCTION.

Fields In Trust : The Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge
READ and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED CLLR NEWMAN WILL LOOK AT THE WEBSITE TO SEE IF IT WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION.

Mrs V Doe : Request to use recreation ground for family sports and bouncy castle as part of family fun day (Don Carman Hall also booked)

A letter from Mrs Doe requesting the use of the recreation ground in connection with a family party being held in the Don Carman Hall on 4th July was **READ**. It was **NOTED** that she had also asked if the Grounds Staff could mark out a small running track for races.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS AND TO REMIND THEM THAT THE PROVIDER OF THE BOUNCY CASTLE MUST HAVE ITS OWN INSURANCE AND ALL ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERTAKEN AT THEIR OWN RISK. ALSO TO ADVISE THAT A RUNNING TRACK CAN BE MARKED OUT AT A COST OF £25.00 TO COVER LABOUR AND MATERIALS.

109. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

Kent County Play Fields Assoc : May 2010 Newsletter

Open Spaces Society : Notice of Annual General Meeting
Annual report and accounts 2009
Open Space, Summer 2010, Vol.29 No.8

Fair Play for Children : e-letter June 2010

110. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Chairman
5th July 2010

