

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J THWAITES (CHAIR), P HATCHER, N NEWMAN & B STONE
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR), MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMIN. ASST.)

298. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.50pm.

299. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllrs Mulcuck, Mrs Throssell and Mrs Houghton. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref. 90 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

300. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 303 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment.

301. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

(b) Disposal of items from Cedar Room & skip

It was **NOTED** that the grounds staff have been asked to start clearing out the Cedar Room in preparation for the refurbishment work. Some items belong to the Community Centre and permission has been granted for their disposal. A skip is needed to dispose of some of the Community Centre unwanted items and also the grounds staff have some items for disposal.

RESOLVED permission be given to order a skip to dispose of unwanted items and the cost be shared between the Open Spaces and Community Centre Committees.

It was **FURTHER NOTED** that there is a Sisis roller that is no longer required and it may be possible to sell this second hand locally.

RESOLVED to try to sell the Sisis roller and the Grounds Supervisor will look into this.



(c) Line Marker

It was **NOTED** that the liquid container to one of the line markers was damaged and that this piece of equipment was very old and had been repaired several times previously. Quotations to repair it for £135.00 or replace it for £260.00.

RESOLVED to purchase a new line marker.

302. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 107, Item 246(a)]

It was **NOTED** that a meeting had taken place recently of the Quarry Working Party and the notes would be **CIRCULATED** shortly. There were a few matters arising from the meeting – the trees on the bank near Acorn Grove will need a contractor to quote for cutting them back and also some equipment may need to be hired to carry out certain maintenance tasks but the budget for the quarry should cover these items.

(b) War Memorial Restoration [Page 107, Item 246(b)]

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

(c) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 108, Item 246(c)]

The Grounds Supervisor **REPORTED** that his staff should soon be able to commence work on removing the old seat and installing the new one. He advised that to do so would involve purchasing materials in the region of £240.00.

RESOLVED the Grounds Supervisor proceed with installation of the new seat and be able to spend up to £250.00 on the installation.

(d) Snow Clearance using a snow plough [Page 108, Item 246(e)]

It was **NOTED** that no information had been received about the use of a snow plough. Cllr Stone suggested that Peter Lott be contacted about this.

Information from Nick Chard, of Kent Highways regarding the possible provision of 1 tonne bags of salt to Parish Councils was **CIRCULATED**. Discussion took place on areas that could be gritted such as near the schools, church and sheltered housing and the feasibility of the Council's Grounds staff undertaking the task.

RESOLVED the Grounds Staff give consideration to undertaking this task and to identify priority areas that would benefit from being gritted.

(e) Tarmac Area in front Goal End [Page 108, Item 246(f)]

It was **NOTED** that an additional quotation had been received.

RESOLVED to ask the independent play area inspector to look at the quotes to confirm if this is what is required.

The Administrative Assistant advised that she had also received quotations for safer "grass matting" surfacing beneath the wooden 'monkey bars'.

RESOLVED to ask the independent play area inspector to look at these quotes also.

(f) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground [Page 108, Item 246(h)]

The Administrative Assistant advised that she had spoken to Mr Grylls at Gullands and he had said that any agreements that council may have previously made regarding access on to the recreation ground from their property needed to be established and then he suggested writing to the residents concerned asking them to remove the steps. The Administrative Assistant **CIRCULATED** copies of a letter and Memorandum of Agreement that was sent to residents in 1976 regarding permission for access gates onto the recreation ground – no mention of steps was made. Discussion took place on the implications of asking the residents to remove the steps and also if they were left. Cllr Stone said he would be happy to speak to the solicitor for further clarification.

RESOLVED to seek further clarification from the solicitor on the Council's position in this respect.

303. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) Autumn skip

It was **NOTED** that DATs have a meeting this week and they will discuss when best to have the skip and will report back to the Administrative Assistant who will arrange the skip accordingly.

(b) Annual Rent Review

The rents were discussed and also the age at which a reduction is given to senior citizens.

RESOLVED to increase the rent in line with inflation, therefore full plots will be increased by 50p and half plots by 25p. Also, to include in the letter that the reduction for Senior Citizens applies to age 65 years and over for men and age 60 years and over for women.

304. **TREES**

(a) On village green

It was **NOTED** that various trees on the village green needed trimming back. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that this work can be undertaken by the Council's Grounds Staff and that an application to carry out this work had been submitted to TMBC as it falls within the conservation area.

(b) In the quarry to the rear of Ragstone Court

A copy of a letter from a resident of Ragstone Court requesting that some trees to the rear of her garden be reduced in size was **READ**. The Grounds Supervisor said he was aware of the trees in question and his staff would be able to undertake most of the work but there was one particularly large tree that would require the expertise of a tree surgeon.

RESOLVED the Grounds Staff to undertake the work they could and ask for a quotation from the tree surgeon for the larger tree.

305. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**Ms D Taylor

- letter re litter in the village

A letter from Ms Taylor which had previously been **CIRCULATED** was **READ** and her comments about litter in the village **NOTED**. The Administrative Assistant advised that a reply had been sent to Ms Taylor advising that most of the issues raised were the responsibility of TMBC and that her comments had been passed on to their street cleansing team. Cllr Stone suggested that it might be good to ask the KCC Warden to organise a 'Bash the Trash' event and to ask Ms Taylor if she would like to be involved in this.

RESOLVED TO ASK THE KCC WARDEN TO SPEAK TO MS TAYLOR ABOUT ORGANISING A BASH THE TRASH EVENT IN THE VILLAGE.

Ms R Smith

- fall outside guide hut

An e-mail from Ms Smith, Guide Leader, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that a guide had fallen over one evening and she was concerned for the guide's safety as there was no light if the multi-sports floodlights had gone out when they left. It was **NOTED** that this matter had been raised at the recent Community Centre Committee meeting and they had **RESOLVED** to have a security light installed to light this area. It was also **NOTED** that some of the paving slabs may be lifting but this can be addressed as part of the Cedar Room refurbishment.

Cllr Stone asked for another item to be considered in connection with the multi-sports area:

RESOLVED to accede to this request.

Cllr Stone asked if it was possible to obtain quotations to place additional floodlights on the back of the two existing ones so that they can light an area of the recreation ground for football training. He said if this were possible many clubs would be interested in using the area and it could produce a reasonable income for the Council. Discussion took place on the feasibility of doing this and the wear on the ground.

RESOLVED the Administrative Assistant will try to obtain a quotation to install two additional floodlights with their own coin meter and the Grounds Supervisor will give consideration as to whether the recreation ground could withstand mid-week training and matches at the weekend.

306. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**KCC PROW

- Public path diversion order 2010 (Public Footpath MR108 (part) East Malling & Larkfield & Ditton)
READ and **NOTED**.

307. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.