

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J THWAITES (CHAIR), A R MULCUCK (VICE CHAIR), N NEWMAN, A PIPER AND J A YEARSLEY
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS A DAVIS (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

220. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.41pm.

221. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book Ref: 131 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

222. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 226 as her husband has an allotment.

Cllr Piper declared a personal interest in item 226 as he has an allotment.

223. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The financial analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that more than three quarters of the Property/Security Maintenance budget had already been used.

RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant would look into this and report her findings to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Residents from Pear Tree Avenue attended the meeting regarding the escalation of anti-social behaviour by youths along Pear Tree Avenue. They advised Members that they have had to call the police regarding a gang of 18 to 20 youths causing damage to property, ie throwing stones, eggs and footballs, etc. Something has to be done as by locking one gate this has only moved the trouble to the other end of the road and they believe that the problem will only get worse once the Youth Centre is open. They understand that the Parish Council's CCTV has limited access to Pear Tree Avenue and is, in fact, masked by one of the trees.



The Chair moved that item 227 (Correspondence for Decision – Resident, Pear Tree Avenue) be brought forward in light of the adjournment.

224. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Resident, Pear Tree Avenue: Anti-social Behaviour in Pear Tree Avenue
Suggestion that either both gates should be locked or be left open
 Discussions took place regarding the residents' concerns

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE MOBILE CAMERA CAN BE MOVED

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THAT A MEETING BETWEEN RESIDENTS, THE PARISH COUNCIL AND THE POLICE BE ARRANGED TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

RESOLVED TO ASK THE COMMUNITY WARDEN TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS PARTICULAR AREA WHEN WORKING DURING THE EVENINGS.

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

(a) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground (Page 109, Item 171(a))

It was **NOTED** that not all the Memorandum of Agreement had been received.

RESOLVED to send another copy of the Memorandum of Agreement to those residents who had not returned the original, asking them to sign and return it to the Parish Office.

(b) Ditton Court Quarry Boundary Fences (Page 110, Item 171(b))

The Administrative Assistant advised Members that there was no update available.

(c) Quarry Maintenance (Page 110, Item 172)

It was **NOTED** that the Quarry Working Party will not be meeting until early November 2011.

(d) Planting Trees (Page 112, Item 181 Correspondence for Decision)

It was **NOTED** that the resident who has kindly offered to donate a tree, preferably an Oak, has a figure in the region of £100.00 in mind.

RESOLVED to contact Coblands Nursery to find out whether the Parish Council still has an account with them and, if so, could an established Oak be purchased for this price.

RESOLVED to contact the resident again enquiring whether or not she has any preference on where the tree is planted.

- (e) Trees backing onto 47 Pear Tree Avenue (Page 111, Item 175)

The Grounds Supervisor advised Members that the quote from the tree surgeon had been received and this was **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to obtain two more quotes and discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

226. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

- (a) Annual Rent Review

Discussion took place on the current allotment rents.

RESOLVED to increase the rent in line with inflation, as agreed in previous years. Full plots will, therefore, be increased by 50p and half plots by 25p.

227. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Minors FC: Request to use small portable floodlights
It was noted that ditton minors need to look into the purchase of these floodlights in more depth before going ahead.
RESOLVED TO ADVISE DITTON MINORS THAT ALTHOUGH THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE USE OF PORTABLE FLOODLIGHTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY WOULD BE USED AND WHAT THE WATTAGE IS.

Resident, Pear Tree Ave: Anti-Social Behaviour in Pear Tree Avenue
Suggestion that either both gates should be locked or both be left open
It was **noted** that this item was taken earlier in the meeting.

Kent BTCV: The Tree and Pond Warden Schemes
RESOLVED TO CONTACT THE TREE WARDEN TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE WISHES TO REMAIN AS THE VILLAGE'S TREE WARDEN. IF NOT TO RECRUIT ANOTHER TREE WARDEN.

228. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

Open Spaces Society: Special General Meeting of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society

229. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Chairman
7th November 2011