

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 24th MAY 2011

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS THWAITES (CHAIR), MULCUCK, MRS THROSSSELL AND BEADLE (EX-OFFICIO) MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR), MRS N GREENAWAY (DEPUTY CLERK, MRS A DAVIS (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

49. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 10.20am.

50. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Porter. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book ref 112 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

51. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 56 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment.

52. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr Mulcuck was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Mrs Throssell and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Thwaites. There being no further nominations, Cllr Mulcuck was duly elected Vice Chair for 2011/12.

53. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

(b) Quotations for Water Heater in Grounds staff Mess Room

It was **NOTED** that there was no hot water in the grounds staff's new mess room and quotations had been sought to provide a small electric hot water heater but they had not been received.

RESOLVED the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, be given delegated power to authorize the provision of a water heater up to a cost of £500.00.



(c) Public Rights of Way – Reduction in Funding for Vegetation Clearance

It was **NOTED** that KCC PROW had advised of a reduction in the fee to be paid for this council's staff to undertake vegetation clearance on certain public rights of way in the village.

RESOLVED this council's staff will continue to undertake the vegetation clearance and would prioritise which paths are cut when.

The Chair advised that there was an additional financial matter that required urgent consideration:-

(d) Repairs to TORO Ride on Mower

It was **NOTED** that the Toro mower had needed some urgent repairs and spare parts which had so far totalled £950.00. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that something else had now gone wrong and a further £500 of repairs were required.

RESOLVED to approve the additional expenditure to repair the mower, as it was essential to the Grounds staff's work.

54. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING(a) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground (Page 278, Item 621(b))

Following the approval of the draft letter and agreement to be sent to residents by the Full Council, the Deputy Clerk advised that she had identified the addresses of the properties concerned. She asked if the letter should go to all houses that border the recreation ground or just those with steps.

RESOLVED to send to all houses that border the recreation ground.

(b) Suggested Revisions to Byelaws (Page 278, Item 621(c))

The Deputy Clerk advised that she had not had chance to speak to KALC about this yet but would endeavor to do so in the near future.

(c) Ditton Court Quarry Boundary Fences (Page 278, Item 622)

It was **NOTED** that the Deputy Clerk had e-mailed the management company without success and would now write to them about a site meeting to look at the fences.

55. BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION

It was **NOTED** that the independent judge was available on Monday 25th July at 1pm to do the final judging and the Chair will accompany him.

56. ALLOTMENT MATTERS

The Chair advised that Gallaghers hoped to be able to do the clearance for the preparation of the allotment extension during the first week of July. It was **NOTED** that there were details about compost toilets in the recent Allotment & Leisure Gardener magazine but they were very

expensive. Discussion took place and it was agreed more research was needed to find a cheaper alternative.

A suggestion was made that a public toilet situated on the spare ground near the entrance to the bowls club car park may solve the problem of the provision of a toilet. This matter would require further investigation to see if it would be possible and if a grant could be obtained to fund it.

57. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Open Spaces Society: Request for donation for appeal
 A request for a donation for the Open Spaces Society's appeal to protect against changes to the system of registration of village greens, loss of public paths and green spaces and changes to the planning system as a result of the new Localism Bill was **READ**. Discussion took place and it was agreed it was important to support these matters.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COUNCIL THAT A DONATION OF £50.00 BE MADE TO THE APPEAL.

Ditton Church Pre-School: Request to use Village Green for Sports Day – Monday 4th July
 Request to use Village Green for Summer Fair – Saturday 9th July
 Requests from Ditton Church Pre-school to use the Village Green for their Sports Day and Summer Fair were **READ**. It was **NOTED** that they have changed the request for the summer fair to hold pony rides on the green rather than on the road.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO BOTH REQUESTS SUBJECT TO THE GREEN BEING LEFT IN THE CONDITION IT IS FOUND AND THAT THEY HAVE THE APPROPRIATE INSURANCE TO COVER THEIR EVENTS.

The Chair moved that two additional items of date sensitive correspondence be considered:-

Clare Horne: Request to have small bouncy castle on recreation ground outside the Carman Room during Christening.
RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE GROUND BEING LEFT IN THE CONDITION IT IS FOUND AND THE BOUNCY CASTLE PROVIDER HAVING APPROPRIATE INSURANCE.

Ian Dennison: Request to use Kilnbarn BBQ for Ditton Minors team BBQ on evening of Thursday 21st July
RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE TEAM PROVIDING THEIR OWN GAS AND CLEANING AND PUTTING THE BBQ AWAY AFTER THE EVENT.

58. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The following items of correspondence were **READ** and **NOTED**:-

Holtwood Rangers FC: e-mail of thanks to grounds staff

Fields in Trust: Annual Review 2010
 Notice of AGM – Wednesday 15th June 2011

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

NSALG: Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 2 2011

Campaign to Protect Rural England: Field Work – Spring 2011

KCC Planning/Environment: Kent Habitat Survey

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ADJOURNMENT

KCC Warden John Newton attended to talk about outdoor exercise equipment to promote healthy exercise for all ages. He advised some had recently been installed in neighbouring parishes with grant funding and if the Committee would like to see something similar in Ditton he would be happy to look into obtaining funding for the project. A brochure of the proposed equipment was CIRCULATED and it was NOTED that the equipment could be placed between the seats at the side of the recreation ground. Members thanked John for attending and for his offer to assist with this project.

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Discussion took place on the merits of installing outdoor exercise equipment.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL SUPPORT THIS IDEA SUBJECT TO THE KCC WARDEN OBTAINING FUNDING.

59. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 10.56am.

Chairman
6th June 2011