

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 APRIL 2011

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J F THWAITES (CHAIR), A R MULCUCK (VICE-CHAIR), P HATCHER, AND N NEWMAN, MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR), MRS N GREENAWAY (DEPUTY CLERK) AND MRS A DAVIS (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

617. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.38pm.

618. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Stone and Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref. 110 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

619. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 625 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment.

620. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis was **CIRCULATED, READ** and **NOTED**.

(b) Football Pitch Annual Fee Review

Information on the current football pitch fees together with information on the costs of maintenance, materials and income received was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to increase the pitch fees for the forthcoming season, 2011/12, to £210.00 for senior teams and £95.00 for junior teams.

621. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 259, Item 571(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the seat was now installed.



- (b) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground [Page 260, Item 571(c)]

It was **NOTED** no further responses have been received from residents about this matter. Discussion took place on the implications previously outlined by a solicitor.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND the Deputy Clerk will draft a letter for the Council's approval, to be sent to each resident, advising that the steps can remain but asking that they each sign a disclaimer accepting responsibility for any accident or damage that arises as a result of structures they have built on the council's land and to acknowledge that no further building may take place on the Council's land.

- (c) Suggested Revisions to Byelaws (Page 260, Item 571(d))

NOTED no further information was available. It was suggested that information could be requested on how to amend byelaws via the KALC newsletter.

- (d) Storage Container (Page 260, Item 571(f))

Discussion took place on finance as this item had not been budgeted for.

RESOLVED to review this item in September.

622. DITTON COURT QUARRY BOUNDARY FENCES

It was **NOTED** that a resident had e-mailed the clerk expressing concern about the damaged fences on the border between the quarry and Quarrywood Industrial Estate, as her dog had escaped through the fence and fallen down the bank. Photographs of the damaged fences were **CIRCULATED**. It was **NOTED** that these fences belong to the management company responsible for the Quarrywood Industrial Estate.

RESOLVED to write to the Management Company and request a site meeting to look at the fences.

623. ANNUAL PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION REPORT

The Annual Inspection report, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and areas that may need some attention were **NOTED**. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that although nothing was considered 'High Risk', many items of equipment and the safer surfacing are becoming very 'worn' and will need replacing in the near future.

624. BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION

It was **NOTED** that the independent judge is available to do the final judging on Monday 25th July 2011.

RESOLVED Councilors nominations to be made between Monday 10th July and Sunday 17th July 2011, and the final judging to take place on Monday 25th July 2011.

625. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

An e-mail from the Chairman of DATs, outlining matters discussed at the DATs AGM was **CIRCULATED** and **READ**. It was **NOTED** that DATs are still looking into the possibility of having a compost toilet but costs they have obtained are very expensive so they are looking at obtaining a grant and have asked if the Parish Council would be able to assist with obtaining planning permission. The Chair and Vice-Chair said they would research some information on compost toilets. It was also **NOTED** that DATs have suggested incorporating funding for the fencing that would be required if the allotment site is extended as part of a grant application for the toilet. A suggestion had also been made to possibly provide some 'mini plots' to give a 'taster' to those on the waiting list or community groups. Discussion took place and it was felt that mini plots might be difficult to manage as people would only want them short term and would probably prefer to move to a larger plot when it becomes available.

RESOLVED to advise DATs that this Council would welcome working together and would give assistance where it could with the provision of a compost toilet and fencing for new plots. Also to advise Gallaghers that this Council would like to proceed with having the area for the proposed allotment extension cleared in July this year if possible.

626. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

It was **NOTED** that no correspondence requiring a decision had been received.

627. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

Sean Lee, Maidstone Utd FC: e-mail of thanks to office and grounds staff
READ and **NOTED**.

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

Open Spaces Society: Open Space Spring 2011 Vol. 29 No. 10

Kent Men of the Trees: Arbor Winter/Spring 2011
Notice of AGM
Program of Events

Kent Wildlife Trust: Events Diary, June - September 2011
Wild Kent Spring 2011

Kent County Playing Fields Assoc: Spring 2011 Newsletter

628. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

