

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 JANUARY 2011

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J THWAITES (CHAIR), A R MULCUCK (VICE-CHAIR), MRS B HOUGHTON, N NEWMAN, B STONE AND MRS A THROSSELL
MRS N GREENAWAY (DEPUTY CLERK)

446. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.57pm.

447. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Hatcher. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref 99 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

448. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Stone declared a personal interest in item 455, Correspondence for Decision letter from Ditton Minors re tournament, as he is acquainted with the tournament organiser. Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 452 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment.

449. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

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

(a) Seat in front of St Peter's Court [Page 160, Item 364(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the Grounds Staff hoped to complete the installation of the new seat very soon. Unfortunately the installation had been delayed because of the bad weather in December and early January.

(b) Snow Clearance using a snow plough [Page 160, Item 364(b)]

It was **NOTED** that a response from KHS about their engineer visiting to assess both the Parish Council's and EMR's tractors to see if they are suitable for a snow plough attachment was still awaited.

- (c) Tarmac Area in front Goal End and Safety Surfaces under wooden play equipment
[Page 160, Item 364(c)]

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Independent Play Inspector had **READ** through the quotes and said that the quotes for extending the tarmac area, are what is required. It was **NOTED** that further quotations had been obtained for safety surfacing under both pieces of higher wooden play equipment.

RESOLVED to review the budget next month, and to see if either of these projects can be funded from what is left in this year's budget, if not to either request funds be slipped forward towards the projects or ask the full council for assistance.

- (d) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground [Page 160, Item 364(d)]

Cllr Stone **REPORTED** that he had spoken to the solicitor on this matter again, and briefly outlined the advice given: the Council can ask residents to remove any steps or structures built onto the recreation ground, which is the council's land but some may question why they have not been asked to do so previously when some have been in place for several years; ask residents to remove but advise if they do not they must sign a disclaimer accepting responsibility for anything that may occur as a result of their structure but advise any further breaches on to the council's land would not be permitted. Discussion took place on the issues involved. It was suggested that the Grounds Staff should make regular inspections along the fence line and report any signs of any work onto the recreation ground so that it can be stopped.

RESOLVED to draft a letter to all residents that back onto the recreation ground asking them to remove any steps or structures built onto the council's land, advising failure to do so may result in legal action and giving a deadline for response or removal. The draft to be approved by Cllrs Thwaites, Mulcuck, Stone and the Clerk prior to sending out by hand.

451. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the winner of this years Christmas Lights competition was a house in Blackthorn Drive.

452. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** all rents had been collected. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the vacant half plot had not been yet been taken up by the person it was offered to. The Deputy Clerk will send a reminder with a deadline and if no response is received, will offer the half plot to the next person on the waiting list.

453. **DITTON QUARRY NATURE RESERVE**

- (a) MVCP Tag Day – 3rd February 2011

It was **NOTED** that a group from MVCP will be carrying out essential maintenance work on Thursday 3rd February 2011.

(b) Quote to cut back trees on bank behind Acorn Grove

A quotation supplied by the tree surgeon, regularly used by the Council, of £355.00 plus VAT to cut back trees on the bank behind Acorn Grove was **READ**. It was **NOTED** that the resident affected by the these trees asked for them to be cut back over a year ago, and the Council had had to cut them back on previous occasions.

RESOLVED to proceed with having the trees cut back before spring and the cost be met from the quarry maintenance budget if there was insufficient left in the trees budget.

454. **SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO BYELAWS**

Cllr Mulcuck's suggested amendments to the byelaws were **CIRCULATED, READ** and **DISCUSSED**. It was **NOTED** that to amend the byelaws may be an involved process and would incur a cost as the signs displayed around the building would need to be replaced.

RESOLVED the Deputy Clerk will investigate what would be required to amend the byelaws and what the cost of replacing the signs would be.

455. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Minors : Request to either hold their tournament two weeks later or a week before the beginning of the football season, or to scale it down and hold it at New Road Recreation Ground – due to the postponement of regular matches because of snow in December. Discussion took place and it was felt New Road Recreation Ground would not be suitable because of lack of parking. It was **NOTED** that the Grounds Supervisor had given comments on this and it would not be possible to hold the tournament any later than as planned at the beginning of May but it would be possible for them to hold it the first weekend in September, prior to the start of the normal football season.

RESOLVED TO ADVISE DITTON MINORS THAT IF THEY WISH TO MOVE THEIR TOURNAMENT, THEY CAN DO SO TO THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER AND TO ADVISE THAT THERE WILL STILL BE A CHARGE FOR MARKING UP PITCHES TO COVER LABOUR AND MATERIAL COSTS.

456. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

It was **NOTED** no correspondence for noting had been received.

457. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.39pm.

