

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2011

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

167. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.42pm.

168. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Newman. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book Ref: 127 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

169. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 179 as her husband has an allotment.

Cllr Piper declared a personal interest in item 179 as he has an allotment.

170. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The financial analysis, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the column entitled 'Funds Available' read 0 for all the expenditure items.

RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant would look into this and bring an amended version to the next meeting.

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

(a) Barbed wire, holly bush & steps onto recreation ground (Page 68, Item 80(a))

The letter received from a resident of Cedar Close and the holding reply, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, were **READ** and **NOTED**. The Administrative Assistant explained that although a copy of the remittance slip from 1978 had been found, unfortunately a copy of the original Memorandum of Agreement had not been traced.



RESOLVED to advise the resident that the Parish Council does not have a problem with the access gate to his property and has no intention of taking this access away. However should he wish to build steps these must not infringe on the Council's land.

(b) Ditton Court Quarry Boundary Fences (Page 69, Item 80(b))

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

(c) Damaged Manhole Cover (Page 67, Item 77(b))

The Administrative Assistant advised Members that this had now been repaired.

(d) Trees in New Road Recreation Ground (Page 68, Item 79)

The report from the ex-Clerk, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

Discussions took place regarding whether any more damage had been caused.

RESOLVED to check with the Police to find out what the current position was.

172. **QUARRY MAINTENANCE**

The e-mail from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership regarding updating the Management Plan was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to organise a Quarry Working Party meeting for early October, if possible, and look at this item at the next Open Spaces and Amenities meeting.

173. **PLAYGROUND AREA, KILNBARN RECREATION GROUND**

It was **NOTED** that a resident had contacted the Parish Council expressing concern about the positioning of the gate was **NOTED**.

It was also **NOTED** that children were riding their bikes in the Playground area.

RESOLVED to ask the Community Warden to keep an eye on the situation.

174. **SEAT NEAR TA CENTRE, LONDON ROAD**

A report from a resident that this seat was an 'eyesore' and was in desperate need of repair, replacement or removal was **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to remove the bench and place an advertisement in the next edition of the Ditton Gazette asking residents if anyone would like to make a donation towards a replacement.

175. **TREES BACKING ONTO 47 PEAR TREE AVENUE**

An e-mail from Cllr Nunn was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the trees in question and others were looked at last year.

RESOLVED that the Grounds Supervisor and members of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee will meet to look at the trees again next week.

176. **DEFRA: CONSULTATION ON REGISTRATION OF NEW TOWNS AND VILLAGE GREENS**

The report from Cllr Mulcuck, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

Cllr Mulcuck advised members that in his opinion the document looked okay, although he did have some concerns regarding land at Cobdown.

RESOLVED to write to the Borough Council to request if they have any information regarding the possible release of land at Cobdown.

177. **DITTON JUNIOR SCHOOL** – Request to store two sets of goal posts in football shed for summer season

The Grounds Supervisor explained that in the past the Junior School's goal posts have been stored in the football shed each year for free. It was suggested that in view of the current economic climate a charge should be made for this service.

RESOLVED that a nominal fee of £25.00 be charged per annum.

178. **CRICKET FRAME**

The Grounds Supervisor explained that the cricket frame used for marking out the wicket is now beyond repair.

RESOLVED to write to the Cricket Club asking whether they could provide a new frame for next season.

179. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

- (a) Grant Applications – Allotment Fence
 - (i) Awards for All
 - (ii) Community Enhancement Fund

Cllr Piper explained that both grants had been submitted.

- (b) Allotment Managers

It was **NOTED** that there is a vacancy for an Allotment Manager and Cllr Yearsley volunteered his services.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yearsley be elected as an Allotment Manager.

180. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

Allotment:	<u>Issue No. 3 2011</u>
ARBOR:	<u>Summer 2011 edition</u>
CPRE:	<u>Fieldwork Summer 2011 edition</u>
Fair Play for Children:	<u>Summer e-letter</u>
Kent County PFA:	<u>Summer 2011 Newsletter</u>
Kent County PFA:	<u>Annual Council Meeting</u>
NSALG:	<u>Time to come out of the Woodwork</u> <u>Prince of Wales becomes Patron</u>

181. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Kent County Council:	<u>Consultation on Kent County Council's Countryside Access Improvement Plan – Review 2012 (Information herewith)</u>
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RESOLVED TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT.

Royal Horticultural Society:	<u>Britain in Bloom</u>
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READ AND NOTED.

Rural News:	<u>Kent Free Trees Scheme (referred from Parish Council Meeting)</u>
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RESOLVED TO APPLY FOR FREE TREES.

St Peters and St Pauls Pre-School:	<u>Request to erect Notice Board at entrance to Community Centre</u>
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RESOLVED NOT TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST

The Chairman moved that three additional items of correspondence be considered:

Marjorie Keggans:	<u>Planting Trees</u>
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RESOLVED TO CONTACT THE RESIDENT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SHE HAS AN AMOUNT THAT SHE WISHES TO SPEND IN MIND.

Millstream U14s:	<u>Request for Junior Football Pitch</u>
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RESOLVED READ AND NOTED.
TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF FIXTURES FROM TEAMS ALREADY USING THE PITCH.

Tonbridge & Malling BC:	<u>Dog Fouling Bag and Flag</u>
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RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST FOR THIS OPERATION TO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2011.

182. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

Chairman
3rd October 2011

