

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2012

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

430. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.38pm.

431. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr N Newman. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book Ref. 140 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

432. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 434 Boundary Stones as they are both members of the Ditton Heritage Centre.

Cllr Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 437 Allotment Matters as her husband has an allotment.

Cllr Piper declared a personal interest in item 437 Allotment Matters as he has an allotment.

433. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis**

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

RESOLVED that the Chair, Administrative Assistant and Grounds Supervisor look at the Financial Analysis for Month 10 as soon as it is available in order to ascertain whether funds can be utilised in the purchase of a container and additional tools for the Grounds Staff, seats and chains for the playgrounds and any other equipment that may be needed.



ADJOURNMENT

Cllr Mrs Day advised Members that she had been doing some research into Boundary Stones and has found nine depicted on old maps, although she has only actually found one in Oaken Wood. She has spoken to Linton Parish Council who recently carried out an exercise to locate all their boundary stones and they have supplied her with guidelines on how to proceed. She would like the Parish Council's backing on setting up a Working Party to do research, look for any stones still in existence and obtain Listed status for the one already found.

The Chair moved that item 440, Boundary Stones, be brought forward in light of the adjournment.

434. **BOUNDARY STONES**

The correspondence from Cllr Mrs Day was READ and discussion took place regarding the request. It was suggested that an article requesting volunteers could be written for inclusion in the next edition of the Ditton Gazette.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND to full Parish Council that a working party be set up to research and locate any stones still in existence and to obtain Listed status for the stone already found.

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

(a) Barbed wire, holly bush & Steps onto recreation ground (Page 160, Item 272(a))

It was **NOTED** that a further reminder had been sent to those residents who had not yet returned the Memorandum of Agreement.

RESOLVED that a final reminder be sent to those residents asking them to complete and return the Memorandum of Agreement.

(b) Planting Trees (Page 160, Item 272(d))

It was **NOTED** that the Oak tree had been purchased and was planted on Friday, 13th January 2012 just inside the quarry. The resident who kindly donated the tree was in attendance and was happy with where it was planted.

It was further **NOTED** that the resident did not want any publicity in this respect.

(c) Trees backing onto 47 Pear Tree Avenue (Page 160, Item 272 (e))

It was **NOTED** that the work on Area A was scheduled to be carried out on 24th January 2012.

436.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

It was **NOTED** that the winner of this year's Christmas Lights competition was a house in Acorn Grove.

437.

ALLOTMENT MATTERS(a) **New Tenancy Agreement**

It was **NOTED** that the new Tenancy Agreement had been sent to all the allotment holders and the majority had been returned.

RESOLVED to send a reminder to those allotment holders who had not yet returned their Agreements to the Parish Office.

It was further **NOTED** that a letter had been sent to the allotment holder who had moved out of Ditton, and was possibly sub-letting his plot, to advise him that as he had not advised the Parish Office of his change of address he was in breach of the Tenancy Agreement and, therefore, his tenancy was being terminated. He had been given one month's notice with effect from 28th December 2011 to harvest any crops still in the ground, to remove any remaining vegetation and equipment and to return his keys to the Parish Office.

(b) **Allotment Inspection Report**

The Allotment Inspection Report, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and discussed. The following points were **NOTED**:-

- (i) The Allotment holders have suggested that if a skip could not be provided twice a year then wheelie bins were a possible alternative and could be wheeled to the end of the road for collection. The Grounds Supervisor advised Members that this would not work as they would not be emptied with the usual household bins. The problem of rubbish could possibly be looked at again once the new allotments are up and running.
- (ii) The Grounds Supervisor advised Members that the Grounds Staff were currently dealing with the weeds growing around the perimeter fence.
- (iii) The possibility of providing a small container, as opposed to a shed which could be broken into, was discussed and it was

RESOLVED to investigate the logistics of where it could be placed and the cost involved.

The issue of parking was discussed and it was thought that this was not a problem.

- (iv) The Grounds Supervisor advised Members that he had obtained a quote for the materials to extend the piping to the new allotments and would be dealing with this.

- (v) The possibility of having toilet facilities was discussed and it was
RESOLVED that if the Allotment Tenants Society want to do all the research then the Parish Council would help with submitting any Grant applications.
- (vi) The Grounds Supervisor advised Members that he hoped the new allotments would be available in early March, weather permitting.
RESOLVED to write to the first 12 residents on the waiting list advising them of this and requesting whether they are still interested in having an allotment.

438. **CRICKET FRAME**

The communication from Aylesford Pterodactyls, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the Grounds Supervisor believes he may get one more season out of the cricket frame.

RESOLVED to advise the Cricket Club that the frame would hopefully last another season which would give them time to possibly come up with a replacement.

439. **CONTROL OF RABBIT POPULATION IN DITTON QUARRY**

It was **NOTED** that the contract to control the rabbit population in the quarry was due for renewal and a discussion took place regarding the current method used.

RESOLVED to thank Mr Cooper for his assistance in the past and advise him that the Parish Council were reviewing the options and do not require his services for the time being.

440. **BOUNDARY STONES**

It was **NOTED** that this item was taken earlier in the meeting.

441. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

BTVC Kent:
Heritage Trees Project
READ and NOTED.

Ditton Church Pre-School: Spring/Summer Fair
The requests from Ditton Church Pre-School to use the Village Green for their Spring/Summer Fair on Saturday, 19th May 2012, and to have pony rides and possibly a bus/fire engine on the slip road were READ and NOTED.

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

KALC:

Fair Play for Children Parish Councils Play Area

Survey

RESOLVED THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, WITH THE HELP OF THE GROUNDS SUPERVISOR, WOULD COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

Valley of Visions:

Get Out in the Gap 2012/13

RESOLVED TO PASS THE INFORMATION TO THE QUARRY WORKING PARTY.

442.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING

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

CPRE:

Field W

NSALG:

Mikron Theatre

443. **CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 8.48pm.

Chairman
6th February 2012

