

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 21st JANUARY 2008

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR),
B CORDWELL AND A R MULCUCK
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

469. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.00pm.

470. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Throssell and Angel. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

471. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Baker, Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 476 Allotment Matters as this concerned a letter from the Bowls Club, of which they are all members.

472. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

(b) Hire of wood chipper

The Grounds Supervisor **REPORTED** that he and his staff were undertaking a lot of clearance work and would need to hire a wood chipper to dispose of the cuttings. It was **NOTED** that he had obtained a quotation for a weeks hire of £450.00 and that there were sufficient funds left in the machinery hire budget.

RESOLVED the Administrative Assistant and Grounds Supervisor will investigate if it is possible to hire a wood chipper any cheaper and then proceed with hiring the cheapest available machine.



473. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 217, Item 397(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the Borough Council's Solicitor is in the process of dealing with the designation of power to the Parish Council to allow the designation of the quarry as a Local Nature Reserve to proceed.

(b) Provision for Youth (Page 217, Item 397(b))

It was **NOTED** that the grant application to erect a goal end and new youth shelter had been successful. The Administrative Assistant advised that there would be a meeting held at Kings Hill on 22nd February to advise how the grant will be administered.

RESOLVED the Administrative Assistant will attend this meeting.

(c) Inspection of fencing, seats, litterbins and footpaths (Page 218, Item 397(d))

It was **NOTED** that an inspection of seats and litterbins had been completed by Cllrs Mulcuck, Mrs Thwaites and Mrs Throssell and this had highlighted those in most need of repair/replacement. Photographs of the worst bin, sited at the top of the Kiln Barn Road recreation ground were CIRCULATED. A photograph of the notice board on the London Road, which is also in very poor condition was also CIRCULATED. It was **NOTED** that there are no funds in the budget next year to replace any of the notice boards or bins but there were funds left in this year's budgets for repairs to bins and notice boards.

RESOLVED the Grounds Staff will make a temporary notice board from timber to replace the unsightly one on the London Road and the Administrative Assistant will see if a suitable bin can be purchased for £200.00 or less to replace the bin on the recreation ground.

(d) Planting of bulbs on grassed areas (Page 218, Item 397(e))

It was **NOTED** that bulbs had been planted on various areas including the verge opposite Ragstone Court, the Village Green and the area where the 'dog loo' used to be.

(e) Trees (Page 218, Item 397(f))

It was **NOTED** that the tree surgeon had undertaken the work at The Stream and the Grounds Staff compound and was to return when the weather improved to trim the trees bordering the recreation ground and Pear Tree Avenue.

474. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

The Chairman and Cllr Mulcuck **REPORTED** that there had been many excellent displays of lights and it had been enjoyable to judge. It was **NOTED** that the winner of this year's competition was 443 London Road.

475. **ALLOCATION OF FOOTBALL PITCHES**

It was **NOTED** that both Ditton Minors and Holtwood Rangers had submitted letters setting out their pitch requirements. It was **NOTED** that the pitch allocation should remain the same as for this season although both teams have expressed an interest in playing additional teams should pitches become available.

476. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

A letter had been received from Ditton Bowls Club asking about the possibility of using the car park for the purpose of burning hedge clippings in an incinerator. Discussion took place and it was **NOTED** that the Parish Council had an agreement with the residents of Ragstone Court that no bonfires would be allowed at the site and that the Allotment Holders have always been refused permission when they have made similar requests.

RESOLVED to write to the bowls club advising that permission cannot be given to burn clippings in the car park but to advise that the contractor usually used by the bowls club takes his cuttings away and also that if they have cuttings that can be chipped, to keep them for when the Parish Council's Grounds Staff hire the wood chipper and they will dispose of them.

477. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

Mayors Assistant (TMBC) - Request to hold Dog Show – Sunday 20th April

An e-mail from the Mayor's Assistant was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that following a fire at the Borough Green venue they are looking for somewhere to hold the Mayor's Dog Show with a field and indoor space. It was **NOTED** that the Oaken Hall and recreation ground are free on 20th April.

RESOLVED TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ON HOW MUCH SPACE WILL BE REQUIRED ON THE RECREATION GROUND AND IF THEY PLAN TO ERECT ANY TENTS ETC BEFORE A FEE CAN BE SET.

G Woodman - Ditton Turkey Run

A letter from the race director was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that they apologised for any problems arising with parking and the changing rooms. It was further **NOTED** that they have been organizing this run at Ditton for 15 years and there have never been any problems and they split money raised between Ditton Scouts and Guides and this year made a donation of £100.00 to Ditton Charities.

RESOLVED THIS COMMITTEE IS HAPPY FOR THE TURKEY RUN TO GO AHEAD AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

PC Matt Roddick

- Installation of gates to prevent motorbike access on quarry
The Administrative Assistant advised that PC Roddick had contacted the Clerk regarding the problem of motorbikes accessing the quarry. He had visited the office during the day and it would seem that the main problem area falls in the Aylesford boundary and the Clerk had suggested he

contact Aylesford Parish Council and if the problem affected Ditton as well, then perhaps a joint initiative could be looked at to combat the problem.

478. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will read the following items of correspondence and **REPORT** back to the next meeting any items of interest:-

- CPRE - Fieldwork – December 2007
- Kent County Playing Fields - Newsletter
- KCC - Definitive Map Modification Order

479. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Chairman
4th February 2008