

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 JUNE 2008

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), R ANGEL, A R MULCUCK, MRS A THROSSELL,
AND MRS J THWAITES
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

108. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.03pm.

109. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Stone. The previously notified reason for absence was **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

110. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

111. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis**

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

(b) **Resurfacing of footpaths NRRG**

It was **NOTED** that someone had recently tripped on the uneven surface of the footpaths at New Road Recreation Ground and photographs of the worst areas were CIRCULATED. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that this item is on the five year plan. It was suggested that it might be better to move the path away from the fence.

RESOLVED members of the committee will try to visit the site and look at the path and quotations be obtained for replacing/moving the path before the next meeting. In the meantime the Grounds Staff will make a temporary repair to worst areas and this work will be paid for out of the general treatments budget.



112. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 29, Item 59(a)]

It was **NOTED** that there was no update on this item.

(b) Provision for Youth (Page 30, Item 59(b))

It was **NOTED** that TMBC will be placing the order for the goal end, youth shelter and i-play unit in due course.

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that she had contacted TMBC about the donation from the developer of New Road Business site and had been advised that the Parish Council needs to submit details of how it intends to spend the money. It had been previously suggested that this money could be used to fund an adventure trail which the young people on the working party had requested at their meeting with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED the Administrative Assistant and Grounds Supervisor will look at possible locations for the equipment and obtain quotations.

(c) Seedling Sycamore Tree – Scott Close (Page 30, Item 59(c))

It was **NOTED** that a letter had been sent to 11 residents asking if they would be prepared to pay £36.00 each towards the cost of having the tree cut down. So far two responses had been received agreeing to pay and one of them had agreed to pay £72.00 as he owns and rents a garage. This resident had also asked what would be done about the damaged fence. One response had been received, signed by two residents stating that as the tree was not doing any harm and it was not on their land according to land registry details, they would not be prepared to pay.

RESOLVED to contact the land registry to clarify ownership of the land and see if more replies are received to bring to the next meeting.

(d) Proposed diversion of Public Footpath MR493 (part) (Page 30, Item 59(d))

It was **NOTED** that a report of the site meeting had not yet been received from KCC. Cllr Mrs Throssell and the Grounds Supervisor had attended the meeting along with representatives from East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council, Aylesford Parish Council, the Ramblers Association and the landowners. Cllr Mrs Throssell **REPORTED** that the proposed diverted path would be very close to the motorway and it was thought that the cost of diverting the path with a substantial safety barrier would be more than repairing the bridge. Also the view of the millpond would be impaired if the path is diverted.

113. **FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Mrs Throssell's report of the walk and footpath inspection that took place on Saturday 24th May was **READ** and photographs **CIRCULATED**. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Throssell for organising the walk which was both enjoyable and useful.

RESOLVED to pass on the problems identified to KCC and to establish who is responsible for cleaning the graffiti from the railway bridge.

Cllr Mrs Throssell said she would be happy to organise an inspection walk for Committee members for the footpaths on the north side of the village in the Autumn.

114. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

There were no allotment matters raised.

115. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the lists of areas to be judged had been sent out to all members. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the final judging will take place on Monday 21st July at 1.00pm. Cllr Mulcuck offered to escort the judge for the final judging as the Chairman may be unavailable that day.

116. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

BTCV

RESOLVED - The Tree & Pond Warden Scheme
TO PLACE AN ARTICLE IN THE DITTON GAZETTE ASKING IF ANY ONE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TREE WARDEN

The Chairman asked members if they would consider two additional date sensitive items. Members acceded to this request:

Paul Crispe (KCC Community Warden for Ditton)

RESOLVED - Request to hold Community Warden's Children's Football Tournament – Saturday 19th July, including having fire engine, Police, BBQ etc
TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF HIRE OF THE GROUNDS.

John Darby, Watringbury FC

RESOLVED - Request to hire football pitch on Saturday afternoon
TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE GAMES NOT AFFECTING DITTON UTD AND TO THE TEAM AGREEING TO PAY THE HIGHER RATE OF PITCH HIRE (£220.00 FOR SEASON) AND CHANGING ROOM HIRE FOR TEAMS OUTSIDE OF DITTON.

117. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** the following items and **REPORT** back on any items of interest:

Campaign to Protect Rural England - Fieldwork – June 2008

Medway Valley Countryside P'ship - Annual Report 2007/08

- Open Spaces Society - Open Space, Summer 2008, Vol.29, No.2
Annual Report and Accounts 2007
Notice of AGM
- National Playing Fields Assoc. - Fields in Trust – Annual Review 2007

118. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman
7th July 2008