

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 MARCH 2008

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

581. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.49pm.

582. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllrs Cordwell and Mrs Thwaites. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

583. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllrs Baker and Mulcuck declared a personal interest in item 589 Correspondence for Decision, letter from Ditton Bowls Club, as they are both members of the bowls club.

584. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis which had previously been circulated, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that overall it was within budget, and where specific budgets had been overspent, explanations had been provided.

(b) Request to slip forward unspent machinery hire budget for hire of woodchipper

It was **NOTED** that the Grounds Supervisor had not yet been able to hire a woodchipper to dispose of cuttings and would not be able to do so until after 1st April.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the unspent budget of £476.00 for machinery hire, be slipped forward to hire a wood chipper in April.

(c) Review of Football Pitch Fees

Information on the current football pitch fees together with suggested increases and increasing costs of maintenance and materials, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and **NOTED**.



RESOLVED to increase the pitch fees for the forthcoming season to £165.00 for senior teams and £77.00 for junior teams.

(d) Review of Multi-Sports Court Fees

The current charges for hire of the multi-sports courts, which had previously been circulated, were **READ** and it was **NOTED** that they were not increased last year. It was also suggested that the fees should be raised on 1st April rather than 1st August to bring it in line with the Council's financial year end. The Administrative Assistant will investigate if it is possible to change the date for the increase.

RESOLVED to increase all rates for all activities in the multi sports court by fifty pence per hour and to increase the cost of electricity tokens to £1.10 per token.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 295, Item 528(a)]

Notes of a meeting of the Quarry LNR Steering Group, which had previously been circulated, were **READ** and **NOTED**.

(b) Provision for Youth (Page 296, Item 528(b))

NOTED a further meeting will be held next month with TMBC about the lottery grant and the Parish Council will need to consult with the young people of the village to gauge their opinion on the planned facilities.

(c) Inspection of fencing, seats, litterbins and footpaths (Page 296, Item 528(c))

NOTED a walk to look at the footpaths on the south side of the village is to be held on 24th May at 10.00am and an article will be placed in the gazette inviting local people to take part. **NOTED** that the paths are not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs.

586. **TMBC OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – REFERRED FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Chairman is reading this document and will report back relevant items at the next meeting. It was **NOTED** that the document does refer to the two recreation grounds in the village, the village green and the quarry.

587. **SEEDLING SYCAMORE TREE – SCOTT CLOSE**

Photographs of an overgrown seedling tree on the border of Scott Close with the Community Centre were **CIRCULATED**. Discussion took place on who would be responsible for the tree as it is on land between the Scott Close garages.

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation to remove the tree.

588. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that the bi-monthly inspections should commence again in April.

589. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Bowls Club - Repairs to track from Kiln Barn Road to Quarry
Thanks to Grounds Staff
 A letter from Ditton Bowls Club thanking the Grounds Staff for their assistance in disposing of vegetation waste and asking if the Council had any plans to repair the track was **READ**. Discussion took place and it was **NOTED** that the track is a bridle way and as such cannot have a solid hard surface.

RESOLVED TO INVESTIGATE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO A BRIDLEWAY BEFORE OBTAINING QUOTES AND TO INFORM THE BOWLS CLUB ACCORDINGLY.

Ditton Utd Football Club - Request to use pitch for reserve team next season
RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST.

Holtwood Rangers - Request to hold funday and BBQ in conjunction with annual presentation – Saturday 14th June 2008
RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS OF HIRING THE GROUNDS BEING ADHERED TO AND ADVISE THAT A CHARGE WILL BE MADE FOR MARKING OUT THE PITCHES.

590. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** the following items and report back any items of interest:-

NSALG - Notification of new Secretary for South East Region
 Open Spaces Society - Open Space – Spring Vol. 29 No. 1
 Medway Valley Countryside Partnership - The Kingfisher – February/March 08
 Kent Men of The Trees - Arbor, Winter – Spring 2008

591. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman
 7th April 2008

