

**DITTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008

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

54. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.00pm.

55. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

56. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

57. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr Mrs Thwaites was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Angel and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mulcuck. There being no further nominations, Cllr Mrs Thwaites was duly elected.

58. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

It was **NOTED** that no financial analysis was available.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 351, Item 650(a)]

It was **NOTED** that information is still awaited from TMBC's legal department about the proposed designation of the quarry as a Local Nature Reserve. Cllr Mulcuck said that when the designation finally takes place, local press and media should be invited to an opening ceremony.

It was **NOTED** that the information board was being updated monthly with pictures and information and this information was also now on the website. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the information had been supplied by Dr Michelle Fountain.



**RESOLVED** to write to Dr Fountain and thank her for the information supplied for the board.

It was **NOTED** that the seeds for the wild flower meadow have been sown.

(b) Provision for Youth (Page 351, Item 650(b))

It was **NOTED** that several quotations have been received for provision of a goal end and youth shelter. It was also **NOTED** that TMBC have placed an order for an 'i-play' unit which will be located in Ditton or Aylesford. A further meeting will take place this week with TMBC to look at the quotations to see which would be most suitable for the area at Ditton.

**RESOLVED** to delegate power to the Clerk, in consultation with TMBC and the Big Lottery Fund, to accept the most suitable quotation package.

(c) Seedling Sycamore Tree – Scott Close (Page 352, Item 650(d))

It was **NOTED** that Liz Guthrie, TMBC Tree Officer, had visited the site and recommended that the tree is removed.

**RESOLVED** to ascertain which properties should be responsible for this piece of land and write to the residents asking if they would contribute to the cost of the removal of the tree.

(d) Proposed diversion of Public Footpath MR493 (part) (Page 353, Item 654)

It was **NOTED** that following objections to the diversion of the path, a site meeting is to be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008, at 9.00am.

**RESOLVED** Cllrs Mulcuck and Mrs Throssell and the Grounds Supervisor will attend this site meeting.

60. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that quotations are to be obtained for materials for the Grounds Staff to re-enforce the fence as funds have been included in this year's budget to proceed with this item. Quotations will also be obtained to make a better main path, although funds are not available for this in the budget this year.

61. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the judge, Mr Manser, is happy to judge the finalists again this year. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the Councillors will need to judge their allocated roads during the first two weeks of July and that the final judging should take place during the third week of July. It was suggested that a reminder of what to look for when judging the gardens should be sent out with the street allocations.

62. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Church Pre-School - Request to hold Pre-School Summer Fair on Village Green Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**RESOLVED** TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONDITIONS

63. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

NSALG - Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue No.2 2008  
**RESOLVED** THE CHAIRMAN WILL READ THIS ITEM.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Borough Councillor Mrs Carol Grant** informed members that she has remained on the Area 3 Planning Committee, she is the Malling Rep for Age Concern and is also on the Parish Partnership Panel. She also advised that she will be attending the site meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May regarding the diversion of PROW MR493. ***Members thanked Cllr Grant for the information supplied.***

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64. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Chairman  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008