

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER, MULCUCK, STONE AND MRS THWAITES
BOROUGH CLLR MRS CAROL GRANT
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

300. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.23pm.

301. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were RECEIVED from Cllrs Angel and Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref. 003 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

302. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

303. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

The financial analysis, which had previously been circulated, was **READ** and discussed. Cllr Stone asked for clarification on the fee received from TMBC for cemeteries and churchyards. The Administrative Assistant will obtain clarification from the Clerk and pass the information to Cllr Stone.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 122, Item 246(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the declaration document had been signed and sealed and a public notice placed in a local newspaper. The Administrative Assistant will now forward all documentation to Natural England and an official opening can be arranged for the Spring.



(b) Provision for Youth [Page 122, Item 246(b)]

(i) Update on Goal-End/Youth Shelter project

The Administrative Assistant advised that she had attended a meeting at TMBC and that the legal documents should be amended for signing within a week. Then this would be forwarded to the Big Lottery Fund. Hopefully the money will be released soon after and then the orders for the equipment can be placed.

(ii) Adventure trail

Revised layouts for the adventure trail in locations closer to the Community Centre were looked at. It was **NOTED** from a Health and Safety aspect that to place equipment in front of the Kiln Barn Club and further along between the office and Carman Room would be dangerous as it would be an obstacle that might injure people when fleeing the building in an emergency. It would also be an obstacle if a firework display were to be held in the future as it would be in the area where large crowds congregate. It would also prevent an ambulance gaining access to the recreation ground in an emergency.

RESOLVED to proceed with this project using the original layout on the far side of the Petanque piste where it will not interfere with or cause obstructions to other users of the recreation ground.

(c) Proposed diversion of Public Footpath MR493 (part) [Page 123, Item 246(c)]

Correspondence from the PROW Office, which had previously been circulated was **READ**. It was **NOTED** that this matter will be considered by the Regulation Committee Member Panel on Friday 31st October 2008 at County Hall.

(d) Footpaths [Page 123, Item 246(d)]

It was **NOTED** that a date had been set for a walk around the footpaths on the North side of the village of Saturday 22nd November meeting at 10am outside the church.

(e) Resurfacing of footpaths NRRG [Page 123, Item 246(e)]

It was **NOTED** that following a visit to look at the paths it was felt that the most of the paths could just be 'patched up' until more funds were available but a quotation had been sought for an area of path nearer to the Stream end.

(f) Trees on the Village Green [Page 123, Item 249]

It was **NOTED** that permission had been granted to trim these trees and the Grounds Staff would be able to undertake this work.

305. ALLOTMENT MATTERS(a) Annual rent review

Discussion took place on the rents charged and the costs incurred for disposal of waste from the allotments.

RESOLVED to increase the allotments in line with inflation by 50p for a full plot and 25p for half plots and to look at costs incurred on the allotments and if it is possible to pass these costs on as a service charge to tenants.

(b) E-mail in response to letter about use of skip

An e-mail and a letter from an allotment tenant regarding the use of the skips provided for non-compostible waste were **READ**.

RESOLVED to reply thanking the tenant for his suggestions and explaining why they were not possible but that the Parish Council is looking into the costs involved in this and looking at other options.

(c) Re-letting of plot to be vacated in near future

The Administrative Assistant advised that the tenant of plot 11 was giving up at the end of the month.

RESOLVED to split the plot in half and offer half plots to the next two names on the waiting list.

306. CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

The Chairman asked for an additional emergency item to be considered. Members acceded to this request:

Draft Letter from Clerk : To Ditton resident regarding unauthorised gathering and fireworks on Kiln Barn Road Recreation Ground
It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had been informed that a local person was inviting people to attend an unauthorised party and firework display on the recreation ground in November next year and had drafted a letter explaining the implications of doing this without proper authorisation or public liability insurance.
RESOLVED TO SEND THE CLERKS LETTER.

Forestry Commission England : Felling Licence – Bradbourne Lane Conservation Area
It was **NOTED** that no notice was given of a recent visit by the Forestry Commission to the Conservation area so they would have been unable to gain access or view the area fully.
RESOLVED TO REPLY ADVISING THAT PRIOR NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN AND INVITE THEM TO RETURN WHEN THE GROUNDS SUPERVISOR CAN ESCORT THEM AND POINT OUT AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN PLANTED.

Holtwood Rangers : Multisports facility surface
An e-mail from Holtwood Rangers about the surface of the multisports court was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the surface is starting to show signs of wear.
RESOLVED TO OBTAIN A QUOTATION FOR RESURFACING THE MULTISPORTS COURT.

307. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

Fields in Trust : FIT Focus – Autumn Issue 2008

308. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.37pm.

Chairman
3rd November 2008