

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2008

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J T THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), R ANGEL, A R MULCUCK, AND MRS A THROSSELL
BOROUGH CLLR MRS CAROL GRANT
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

242. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.40pm.

243. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

244. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

245. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

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

Cllr Mrs Thwaites asked if the Council should consider not holding the Christmas Lights competition this year in the current climate of high energy bills.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Christmas lights competition be suspended this year.

(b) Rates payable on Cedar Room

It was **NOTED** that a new rateable value is being charged for the Cedar Room this year and that the unbudgeted cost will be split between this Committee and the Community Centre Committee.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the split of this bill be decided at the next full council meeting when the Chairs of the Opens Spaces and Community Centre committees will both be present.

RESOLVED to include an amount for this charge in next year's budget.



(c) Damage to safety surfaces KBRRG Play Area

The Administrative Assistant reported that two areas of safety surface were vandalized in July and photographs were CIRCULATED. It was **NOTED** that the damage had been repaired as an emergency and an insurance claim made.

RESOLVED TO INCLUDE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY VANDALISM IN THE NEXT GAZETTE.

246. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 82, Item 170(a)](i) **Update on LNR**

The Administrative Assistant circulated a draft declaration document and boundary map. It was **NOTED** that a meeting of the working party was to take place the following morning. It was suggested that the boundary of the area declared should not take in the allotments or bowls club.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND the declaration document be signed and sealed at the next full Parish Council meeting.

(ii) **Anti-motorcycle gate - suggestion from Cllr Mulcuck**

An example of a steel gate that could prevent motorcycles using the footpath near the quarry was CIRCULATED.

RESOLVED to hold the details on file.

(b) Provision for Youth (Page 82, Item 170(b))(i) **Update on Goal-End/Youth Shelter project**

It was NOTED that all the legal documents had been dealt with and that TMBC should be processing the order for the equipment.

(ii) **Suggestions for adventure trail**

Two examples and quotations for adventure trails were CIRCULATED:

- (A) £14,392.00 - figure of 8 layout
- (B) £10,000 - £12,000 – in a line layout

Discussion took place on the location and types of equipment.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that quotation (A) be accepted and to proceed with applying for the funding for this project from the developer of the former New Road Business Estate.

- (c) Proposed diversion of Public Footpath MR493 (part) (Page 82, Item 170(d))

A letter from the PROW Office was CIRCULATED and it was **NOTED** that the Highways Agency have responded to the consultation and have no objections. The PROW Officer is now preparing the Delegated Authority Report and will send a further update when this has been authorised.

- (d) Footpaths (Page 82, Item 170(e))

RESOLVED to hold the walk to inspect the footpaths on the North Side of the village on Saturday 22nd November 2008, meeting outside the church at 10 o'clock and to advertise this walk in the Ditton Column.

- (e) Resurfacing of footpaths NRRG (Page 81, Item 169(b))

Discussion took place on the right of public access to the recreation ground from New Road. The Administrative Assistant will try to clarify this.

RESOLVED to hold a site meeting to look at the footpaths on the recreation ground, on Thursday 7th October 2008 at 3pm meeting on the Recreation Ground at New Road.

247. ALLOTMENT MATTERS

The Chairman REPORTED that on a recent visit to the allotment site he had noticed that a lot of items were being put in the bags that could be composted. The Grounds Supervisor and Cllr Mrs Thwaites said they had also seen several general garden waste items being put in the bags.

RESOLVED to write to the allotment holders to advise them that if they continue to abuse the bag collection service it will be withdrawn.

248. BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION

The balance sheet was **READ** and it was **NOTED** there was a slight surplus this year.

It was **NOTED** that the black plaque of winners that hangs in the foyer of the community centre was now full.

RESOLVED to include the cost of new plaque in the budget for next year.

249. TREES ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Grounds Supervisor REPORTED that there are several trees on the village green that require the removal of some branches and there is one that needs removing because it is infested with death watch beetle. He advised that the Grounds Staff would be able to undertake this work.

RESOLVED to apply for planning permission to trim these trees as they are in the conservation area.

250. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

- Billy Swaisland : - Letter re proposal for skate park in Ditton
RESOLVED TO RESPOND ADVISING THAT THERE IS NO SUITABLE LOCATION IN DITTON BUT IT MAY BE WORTH WRITING TO TMBC TO SEE IF THEY CAN IDENTIFY A SUITABLE LOCATION NEARBY POSSIBLY IN LARKFIELD NEAR THE LEISURE CENTRE OR AYLESFORD'S FERRY FIELD.
- BTCV : - Kent Heritage Trees Project
RESOLVED TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO ALL THE QUESTIONS.
- John Millard : - Request to cook outside Community Centre during a forthcoming function
RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST.

251. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The following two items were **READ** and **NOTED**:-

- The Insolvency Service : - Notice of insufficient assets to pay creditors of Mark Hunter
 Michelle Fountain : - Copy of e-mail thanking grounds staff for work in the quarry

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

- The Kent Men of the Trees : - Suspension of Trees in Village Competition
 NSALG : - Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue No 3 2008
 CPRE : - Fieldwork, September 2008

252. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Chairman
 6th October 2008