

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 APRIL 2009

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J F THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), R ANGEL,
A R MULCUCK
MR N SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)
MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

631. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.56pm.

632. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were RECEIVED from Cllr Mrs Throssell. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book ref. 026 and ACCEPTED and APPROVED.

633. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

634. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

READ and **NOTED**.

(b) Football Pitch Fees

(i) Casual Hire (fee for small tournament pitches)

RESOLVED to charge a fee of £15.00 per small tournament pitch.

(ii) Pitch use Sunday Mornings

It was **NOTED** that Ditton Minors would only have two teams instead of three using the pitch closest to the Multi Sports Courts in the coming season.

RESOLVED not to advertise the pitch but keep it available for casual use.

(c) War Memorial Restoration

A quotation for restoration work to the war memorial and replacement of the cross, which had previously been circulated, was **READ**.

RESOLVED to investigate if a grant would be available to cover restoration of the whole war memorial area or just the cross.

The Chairman asked for an additional matter to be considered.

RESOLVED to accede to this request:

(d) Extension to MUGA fence behind new goal end

It was **NOTED** that footballs are regularly being kicked high at the new goal end and are going over the fence into the multi sports which is resulting in some children dangerously climbing the fence to retrieve their footballs.

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation to have a height extension added to three to four of the existing multi sports fence panels.

635. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 280, Item 570(a)]

Notes of a meeting of the working party held on 18th March, were **READ** and **NOTED**. It was further **NOTED** invitations to the opening on 31st May had been sent to volunteers past and present.

RESOLVED to notify the local press and media of this event and invite them to attend.

(b) Provision for Youth [Page 280, Item 570(b)]

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

It was **NOTED** that an official opening of this equipment will take place as soon as a fault with the i-play unit has been rectified. It was suggested that the event should take place after school and local children should be invited including those that attended the original meetings about the selection of equipment.

(c) Dog Refuse Bin – Entrance to Scott Close (Page 280, Item 570(c))

It was **NOTED** that a response to this Council's request to move the dog bin was still awaited from TMBC.

636. ALLOTMENT MATTERS

It was **NOTED** that this Committee's request to the Community Centre Committee to allow allotment holders to have keys to use the toilets on the outside of the Community Centre had been refused for security reasons.

637. BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION

It was **NOTED** that a request had been made to Scottish and Newcastle to sponsor the Best Kept Garden Competition and the provision of hanging baskets for the village, but as yet no response had been received. Discussion took place on ways of reducing the expenditure for this event. It was suggested that the independent judge should be asked to judge the event pending the acquisition of funds to proceed.

RESOLVED to write to local businesses to ask if they would like to sponsor the event.

If funding for the event can be found

RESOLVED to amend the format to only give prizes to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd gardens and to hold the presentation in the Acorn Room with soft drinks and tea and coffee.

638. **ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION**

READ and **NOTED** that generally most equipment is in fairly good condition but the safety surfaces at the Kiln Barn Road Recreation Ground play area are in poor condition and gaps have appeared around the edges of some.

RESOLVED to obtain quotations to repair/replace the safety surfaces in the play area.

639. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Kent Men of Trees

RESOLVED : Trees in the Village Competition 2009
TO ENTER THIS COMPETITION AND EITHER THE
CHAIRMAN OR CLLR MULCUCK WILL ESCORT
THE JUDGE.

640. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

Kent County Playing Fields Association : Notice of AGM, 21.04.09
April 2009, Newsletter

Campaign to Protect Rural England : Fieldwork, March 2009

641. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman
6th May 2009

