

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2009

PRESENT: CLLRS R W G BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J T THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR),
A R MULCUCK, B STONE AND MRS A THROSSELL
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)
MR LEE HAYWARD (GROUNDSMAN / MECHANICAL ENGINEER)

458. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.45pm.

459. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were RECEIVED from Cllr Angel. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book ref. 013 and ACCEPTED and APPROVED.

460. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllrs Baker, Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 465 (Trees on track near to bowls club and item 467 (Correspondence for Decision – letter from Bowls Club) as they are members of Ditton Bowls Club.

461. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

The Financial Analysis, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

The Administrative Assistant REPORTED that it would be necessary to use some of the quarry budget for the new notice board (approximately £500.00) and some for stone to repair the path below the bee cliff (approx £280.00).

RESOLVED to purchase these items from this year's quarry budget.

It was also NOTED that 8 new bulbs had been purchased for the multi-sports floodlights and a quotation had been received of £532.00 for their installation.

RESOLVED to proceed with the installation, to be paid from this year's MUGA budget.

It was further NOTED that the grounds staff would shortly be removing some dying rose bushes from the verge opposite the main entrance to the Community Centre and would like to replace them with some 'red dogwood' shrubs.



RESOLVED to purchase 'red dogwood' shrubs to replace the rose bushes.

(b) Quotation to clean war memorial

A quotation to clean the panels of the war memorial for £350.00 was READ. It was NOTED that the contractor had said that the cross was badly eroded and would require replacement in time. Cllr Stone said he would contact the Environment Agency to seek assistance with restoration of the cross as pollution had caused the erosion.

RESOLVED to have the panels cleaned at a cost of £350.00 which can be paid for using this year's unspent seats budget.

(c) GPRS Annual Fee for i-play unit

It was **NOTED** that an annual fee of £200.00 will be payable to cover the GPRS costs of the i-play unit. This fee had not been budgeted for but could be paid from playground repairs. It was suggested that as there was over £1,000.00 unspent in this budget to ask if the fee for the next few years could be paid in advance.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 181, Item 366(a)]

Notes of a meeting of the Quarry Working Party, that took place on Wednesday 14th January, were CIRCULATED. It was **NOTED** that the official opening of the quarry as a Local Nature Reserve will take place on Sunday 31st May at 11.30am, and that after the unveiling a short walk around the quarry will take place. A new notice board is being designed and it is hoped it will be ready to be viewed at the Annual Parish Meeting and be set in place before the opening. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the Don Carman Hall had been booked for light refreshments following the opening ceremony and walk.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE FULL COUNCIL DECIDE UPON A SUITABLE DIGNATORY (POSSIBLY THE MAYOR OF TMBC) TO BE INVITED TO CARRY OUT THE OFFICIAL OPENING AND UNVEILING OF THE NEW NOTICE BOARD,

(b) Provision for Youth [Page 181, Item 366(b)]

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

It was **NOTED** that work will commence to install the youth shelter, seat and i-play unit on 26th January. The goal end will follow soon after.

(ii) Adventure trail

It was NOTED that the funds for this project had been received and installation of the equipment should commence on 2nd February. It was **NOTED** that the contractor had asked if a deposit could be made before work commences.

RESOLVED to pay a deposit of no more than 10% of the total cost, if the contractor insists on a payment prior to commencement of installation.

Cllr Stone suggested that the Mayor would probably be pleased to open the new play equipment, if asked and this would hopefully attract some good publicity for the new facilities.

(c) Footpaths [Page 181, Item 366(d)]

A report from Cllr Mrs Throssell of the walk that took place on Saturday 22nd November 2008, taking in the footpaths on the North side of the village was CIRCULATED and **READ**. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Throssell for organizing the walk and producing the report. It was agreed that it was very enjoyable and would hopefully take place again next year.

RESOLVED the Administrative Assistant will pass on the comments and areas of concern to the Public Rights of Way Officer for the area.

463. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

It was **NOTED** that the winners of this year's competition were Mr & Mrs MacKintosh of 661a London Road. It was further NOTED that Mrs MacKintosh had telephoned to thank the Parish Council for the Vouchers and said they were much appreciated as it takes her husband two weekends to put the lights up.

464. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

An e-mail from the Chairman of DATs was circulated and his comments about the council reducing costs by reducing the provision of skips and wire mesh being used to re-enforce the allotment perimeter fence rather than replacing the fence without consultation were **NOTED**. It was also **NOTED** that an allotment inspection had not been undertaken recently and another DATs member had commented on when the main path was to be sorted out as it had been on the Council's five year plan for some time.

RESOLVED the Chairman will contact the Chairman of DATs to arrange an inspection of the allotments and also discuss matters of concern.

465. **TREES ALONG TOP TRACK NEAR BOWLS CLUB ENTRANCE**

Photographs of a 'dead' tree along the top track were CIRCULATED.

RESOLVED this tree be removed by the Grounds Staff and the Grounds Supervisor be asked to suggest a suitable tree that could be purchased to put in its place.

466. **DITTON MINOR'S LEASE**

It was **NOTED** that the lease is due for renewal on 1st April this year and that the only amendments required were the change of names and addresses of the Ditton Minors officers.

RESOLVED to amend the Ditton Minors Lease as required.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND THE LEASE BE SIGNED AND SEALED.

467. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Ditton Bowls Club

: Football adjacent to Bowls Club fence - Request for site meeting

A letter from the Bowls club outlining the problem of footballs being played near the trees by the track near to the Bowls Club was READ. Discussion took place and it was agreed no healthy trees should be removed in this area as this would not prevent football being played there.

RESOLVED

TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST FOR A SITE MEETING AND SUGGEST SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY AT 10AM. CLLRS BAKER AND STONE WILL ATTEND.

468. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will READ and REPORT on the following items, if necessary:

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership : The Kingfisher, New Year 2009

Campaign to Protect Rural England : Fieldwork, December 2008

Groundwork Kent & Medway : Groundwork News, Issue 4 Autumn 2008

Cllr Mulcuck will READ and REPORT on the following item, if of interest:

Kent Men of the Trees : Arbor, Autumn-Winder 2008

469. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chairman
2nd February 2009