

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 JUNE 2009

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER [Chairman], R ANGEL, A R MULCUCK, B D STONE AND
MRS A THROSSELL
MR N SAUNDERS [Grounds Supervisor]
MRS S J KAVANAGH [Clerk of the Council]

109. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.52pm.

110. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were RECEIVED from Cllr Mrs Thwaites. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book ref 32 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

111. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr. Angel declared a personal interest in item 108 as he is on the allotment waiting list.

112. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis (herewith)

Cllr. Mulcuck expressed concern at the depletion of the Quarry budget. Cllr. Baker explained that the cost of the new Local Nature Reserve sign had been met from this budget.

The Clerk confirmed that Scottish and Newcastle have agreed to sponsor the Best Kept Garden Competition and the Hanging Baskets this year and that the £500 donation has now been received.

Cllr. Stone queried budget number 4114 'Youth Equipment' and requested details of this item. The Clerk agreed to investigate this and circulate the committee with the details.

113. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 25, Item 52(a)]

(i) Report of official opening

Cllrs Mulcuck and Baker REPORTED that the opening went very well, some photographs and the article that appeared in the Kent Messenger were CIRCULATED. It was **NOTED** that an article will be on the front page of gazette.

Cllr. Baker thanked everyone who contributed to the ceremony.



(b) Provision for Youth [Page 26, Item 52(b)]

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

It was **NOTED** that the official opening of the new youth equipment is to take place this Thursday 18th June at 3.45pm, by the Mayor of TMBC. It is hoped that Stephen Gregg of TMBC Leisure Services, Jill Watson (Playdale) and some of the young people involved in the initial consultation will attend.

(c) War Memorial Restoration [Page 26, 52(d)]

It was **NOTED** that the War Memorial Trust had responded by telephone stating that they would not recommend replacement of the cross at moment so would not be able to give a grant for all works in the quotation sent. However it would be suitable for small grant (£2,000) for cleaning, repointing work etc.

RESOLVED to apply for a grant for cleaning and repointing.

(d) Extension to MUGA Fence

It was **NOTED** that a quotation had been received to extend the height of the MUGA fence behind the goal end for £2,460 plus VAT (£1,000 of this is to hire a cherry picker).

RESOLVED to hold this over until later in the year and in the meantime costs be obtained to hire a tower to undertake the work, instead of a cherry picker.

114. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Suggestion for allotment expansion

E-mails from Michelle Fountain (allotment waiting list) and Mike Hawksworth (DATs) were **READ** and it was **NOTED** that they would be happy to attend a meeting to discuss the possibility of extending the site.

Discussion took place and it was suggested that contact be made with Gallaghers to see if they would undertake the clearing work, free of charge, as a community project. Further discussion took place and it was felt that even if this work was undertaken the Council does not have the funds in the current budget to cover the cost of fencing the extension to the allotments.

RESOLVED to make enquiries of Gallaghers and consideration be given to placing an amount in next years budget for the fencing.

(b) Plastic mesh for path

It was **NOTED** that the price has increased slightly to £180.00 per roll including delivery plus £25.00 for fixing pins – the total would be £235.75 inc VAT and delivery for 2m x 30m roll, the roll can be cut by the Parish Council staff.

Discussion took place.

RESOLVED that as there is no budget for this item, it be held over until the September meeting when the committee will have a clearer idea of surplus contingency funds.

115. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

Members were reminded that the dates for judging front gardens is 6th July to 23rd July and nominations forwarded to the parish office no later than Friday 24th July. Final judging to take place on Monday 27th July.

As two councilors will be unable to judge this year, Cllr. Mrs Throssell and Cllr. Stone agreed to judge their areas.

As previously resolved there will be three prizes only this year. As the Acorn Room is not now available for the presentation it will be held in the Kilbarn Club, as in previous years.

116. **SEAT IN FRONT OF ST PETER'S COURT**

The Grounds Supervisor **REPORTED** that the seat and concrete area in front of St Peter's Court are in need of repair/replacement.

The Grounds Supervisor advised that he could undertake a temporary repair to the worst area of concrete at a cost of approximately £10, however the whole area really needs attention. He asked the Committee whether they would prefer the whole area re-concreted or if they would prefer an alternative surface. The work could be undertaken in the Autumn/Winter.

It was **NOTED** that part of the problem with the seat and concrete is that tree roots are invading the area and breaking up the concrete. It was suggested that perhaps the seat could be repositioned.

Cllr. Mrs Throssell felt that there may be a resident who would like to sponsor a new seat as a memorial and suggested an item be placed in the Church News Sheet inviting sponsorship.

RESOLVED to hold a site meeting at 2.30pm on Thursday 18th June 2009 to look at the problem.

RESOLVED to invite sponsorship of a new seat in the Church magazine and Ditton Column.

117. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

Mr Cathersides, 50 Pear Tree Ave : Trees KBBRG & Damage to Fence

It was **NOTED** that the resident has asked if the trees bordering his property and the recreation ground could be trimmed. It was **NOTED** that these trees were last cut back in January 2008. The resident had also pointed out that the wooden fence at the bottom of his garden had been damaged by youths playing around adventure trail.

DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AND IT WAS FELT THAT OWNERSHIP OF THE FENCE IN QUESTION SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.

RESOLVED TO HOLD A SITE MEETING TO OBSERVE THE PROBLEM ON 18TH JUNE, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SITE MEETING ON THE VILLAGE GREEN.

RESOLVED TO OBTAIN QUOTES TO HAVE THE TREES CUT BACK.

118. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

- Open Spaces Society : Open Space Summer 2009, Vol 29 No5
Annual Report & Accounts & Notice of AGM
- Campaign to Protect Rural England : RE: Fieldwork Newsletter
- BTCV : Kent Tree & Pond Warden Schemes
- Medway Valley Countryside P/ship : Annual Report 2008/09
- Fields in Trust : Annual Review 2008, Trustees Report and Accounts

119. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.39pm.

Chairman
6th July 2009