

## DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J T THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR)(until 8.40pm),  
R ANGEL, MULCUCK, MRS MULCUCK, STONE AND MRS A THROSSELL  
MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)  
MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

### 567. OPENING OF MEETING

The Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.54pm.

### 568. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 569. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 570. FINANCE

#### (a) Financial Analysis

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

Cllr Stone asked if it would be possible to use some of the Parish Council's capital to pay off the loan on the tractor to save on interest charges.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** to the full council that the tractor loan be paid off as a capital item.

Cllr Stone also asked why the electricity/energy charge was overspent. The Administrative Assistant said she thinks this is because this charge was transferred to the Open Spaces Budget from the Community Centre Budget.

Cllr Stone also asked if it would give a truer picture of this Committee's expenditure if the staff costs were included. The Administrative assist said she was not sure if this was possible. She will investigate both the above matters further and REPORT back to the Committee.

(b) Request from the Petanque Club for more ‘pebbles’

It was **NOTED** that the Petanque Piste requires more stones to keep it up to the required playing standard.

**RESOLVED** to obtain a quotation for more stones

(c) Five Year Plan – Equipment for Play Area

The Chairman REPORTED that following a recent seminar on playground safety, where he had had the opportunity to look closely at the play equipment in the Kiln Barn Road Play Area, it was apparent that the equipment needs updating and more equipment was needed and suggested it be included in this Committee’s Five Year Plan. Cllr Mulcuck suggested that the committee ask for an amount to be set aside each year to build a fund for the play area. The Administrative Assistant advised that the Five Year Plan replaced the Accrued Funds and that this Committee will need to know how much in total is required and then this can be put in the five year plan with the appropriate timescale.

It was suggested that new equipment could be viewed at the Saltex show in September if anyone wished to attend. Alternatively, the Administrative Assistant can arrange for representatives from play equipment suppliers to attend and give suggestions and quotations

(d) Quotation for Security Light – Grounds Staff Compound

A quotation from Ditton Electrical was **READ** to provide the following for the Grounds Staff Compound:

Additional security light	£ 98.64
Additional sockets	£199.85

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotations and proceed with the above works, in the interests of the health and safety of the Grounds Staff.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 296, Item 515(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the application could not proceed until confirmation was received from the Borough Council that the power to designate the quarry as an LNR had been delegated to the Parish Council.

It was **NOTED** that there was an unspent budget of £1600 for the quarry and that this amount may be needed to assist with any costs in connection with achieving LNR status.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that any unspent Quarry Working Party budget be slipped forward to assist with the costs of achieving LNR status in the quarry.

(b) Village Green (Page 297, Item 515(e))

A quotation from MB Tree Care for trimming the Ash Tree in The Stream was **READ** and **NOTED** as £420.00. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that planning permission will be required because the tree is in the conservation area.

**RESOLVED** to accept this quotation and have this work undertaken as soon as planning permission is granted.

(c) Provision for Youth (Page 297, Item 516)

It was **NOTED** that the Administrative Assistant is still looking for the additional funding required to go ahead with this project. Cllr Mulcuck expressed concern about the proximity of the goal end to the car park. The Administrative Assistant will check on whether there is a required space between games areas and car parks.

572. **NOTICE BOARD AT BRADBOURNE LANE**

Cllr Mulcuck asked if there could be a notice board erected in Bradbourne Lane as there is not one in this part of the village.

**RESOLVED** to obtain a quotation for a covered notice board.

It was also **NOTED** that other notice boards in the village are becoming untidy and may need replacing in the future.

573. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that about half of the allotment holders had replied to the Parish Council's letter asking them to accept a rent increase in November.

574. **HANGING BASKETS**

Discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should have hanging baskets this year.

**RESOLVED** to have hanging baskets in the village this year, as the hosepipe ban had now been lifted.

575. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

**RESOLVED** to hold the Best Kept Garden Competition again this year, and to keep the format the same as in previous years.

576. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman agreed to take the following items of correspondence away to **READ** and will **REPORT** back on any items of interest:

- defra - Getting to grips with the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005  
A Parish Council guide to environmental enforcement
- Campaign to Protect Rural England - Fieldwork, March 2007
- Open Spaces Society - Open Space , Spring 2007 Vol 28 No 8
- The Kent Men of the Trees - Arbor Spring 2007  
- Notice Re: AGM 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007  
- Trees in the Village Competition 2007
- CPRE - Houses & Gardens 2007

577. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

Chairman  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007