

**DITTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007

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

635. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.34pm.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr G West of 40 Pear Tree Avenue** presented a letter to the Council requesting use of the football pitch nearest to the multi-sports area, on Sunday afternoons. **Mr West thanked the Council for listening to his request. Members advised that the request would be considered and a response given in writing.**

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636. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

637. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

638. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis**

The financial analysis, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the electricity energy charge was overspent because this covered the costs of the floodlights but the income from the tokens in the income covered this overspend.

Cllr Mulcuck NOTED that the budget for street furniture totaling £720.00 had not been spent and enquired if it would be possible to slip this forward. The Administrative Assistant advised that it was probably too late for “slip forwards” as it was after the financial year end but she would enquire if it was possible.

(b) KCC - Order of works for Clearance of PROWs in Ditton for 2007/08

The order of works for Ditton Parish Council’s grounds staff to continue to clear the PROWs in Ditton for 2007/08 was **READ** and **NOTED**.

(c) Kilnbarn Play Area – replacement of fencing between play area and property boundary of Pear Tree Avenue

Following the decision made at the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held earlier it was

**RESOLVED** to hold a site meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, at 6.30pm to look at the fence to decide which type of fencing would offer the best replacement.

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

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 326, Item 571(a)]

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that she was waiting to hear from TMBC on the decision made at the Cabinet Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007 to see if the Borough Council agree to delegating the power to the Parish Council to apply to designate the quarry as an LNR.

Cllr Mulcuck said he felt the draft management plan should be submitted to Natural England for their comments before the formal application is submitted.

(b) Village Green (Page 326, Item 571(b))

It was **NOTED** that the planning application to trim the trees had been submitted.

(c) Provision for Youth (Page 326, Item 571(c))

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that a new quotation had been obtained to site the goal end on the other fence of the multi-sports (facing the football pitch) because concern had been expressed about the safety of the previous suggested location being near to the car park.

**RESOLVED** the Chairman and other members of the Committee that are available will meet with the Grounds Supervisor on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 pm to look at the locations.

The Administrative Assistant also **REPORTED** that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is carrying out a Local Play Strategy which will give them access to £223,000 from the Big Lottery Fund’s Children’s Play Initiative. They have asked Parishes to identify play projects for inclusion in the bid to the Big Lottery Fund.

Various suggestions were put forward including asking for the goal end to be considered if alternative funding is unavailable. The Administrative Assistant will investigate further for play equipment that could be included in this grant request.

(d) Notice Board at Bradbourne Lane (Page 327, Item 572)

It was **NOTED** that a quotation had not yet been obtained for a notice board.

640. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) Request to remain on waiting list from non-Ditton Resident

A request from a resident living in Gorse Crescent to remain on the allotments waiting list was **READ**.

**RESOLVED** to reply to resident advising that Gorse Crescent is not part of the Parish of Ditton but her details could be retained on file should a plot become available, after everyone on the Ditton waiting list had been accommodated.

(b) Monthly Inspection

Cllr Mulcuck **REPORTED** that he had recently inspected the allotments with Mrs Webb of DATs. He said that the majority of plots were well kept but two had a large amount of old wood etc stored on them and another two were not cultivated.

**RESOLVED** to write to those tenants concerned and ask them to tidy-up their plots.

Cllr Mulcuck also said that the paths were inspected. Various solutions such as roadstone and rubber matting for a better main path were discussed.

**RESOLVED** to obtain quotations for the various options.

641. **ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION**

The annual inspection report which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the equipment was generally in good condition and only a few repairs were necessary. The Grounds Supervisor advised that his staff will undertake the repairs as soon as possible.

642. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

TMBC - Gardening for Wildlife Scheme 2007 Seminar Invite

**RESOLVED** TO DISPLAY THE LEAFLETS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE SO THAT ANYONE INTERESTED CAN TAKE ONE.

- Mr Piper - Christmas Lights Competition/Carbon Footprint  
An e-mail from Mr Piper asking if it was appropriate for the Council to promote outdoor light displays through it's Christmas Lights competition, when people are being encouraged to save energy, was **READ**.
- RESOLVED** TO REPLY TO MR PIPER ADVISING THAT THIS COUNCIL WELCOMES HIS COMMENTS ON PROMOTING ENERGY SAVING BUT THAT IT HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION BUT TO MAKE THE PRIZE A GARDEN CENTRE VOUCHER SO THAT THE WINNER CAN GIVE SOMETHING BACK THE ENVIRONMENT BY PURCHASING A PLANT OR TREE.
- The Clerk - Remote Controlled Vehicles on the Recreation Ground  
Correspondence between the Clerk and a resident regarding the use of a large diesel powered remote control vehicle on the recreation ground was **READ** and **NOTED**.
- RESOLVED** THE CLERK WRITE TO THE OWNER OF THE REMOTE CONTROL VEHICLE ADVISING THEM THAT IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO USE SUCH A VEHICLE ON THE RECREATION GROUND IN THE INTERESTS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY TO OTHER USERS AND NOISE NUISANCE TO SURROUNDING PROPERTIES.
- Holtwood Rangers - Request for guaranteed continued use of Pitch  
A letter from Holtwood Rangers asking for a guarantee that they can use their pitch for the foreseeable future was **READ**.
- RESOLVED** TO REPLY TO HOLTWOOD RANGERS CONFIRMING THAT THEY MAY CONTINUE TO USE THE ADULT PITCH FOR THE FORESEABLE FUTURE PROVIDED THAT ANNUAL PITCH FEES CONTINUE TO BE PAID ON TIME.
- KCC Highways - Proposed extinguishment of Public Footpath MR493 (Part), Proposed Creation by Order of Public footpath  
TO ASK KCC WHY THE FOOTPATH IS TO BE MOVED AND IF IT IS BECAUSE OF BUILDING WORKS AS THIS COUNCIL HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY APPLICATIONS IN THIS RESPECT.
- Kent Wildlife Trust - Invitation to Local Wildlife Site Owners Spring Day  
**READ** and **NOTED**.

The Chairman asked that two additional items of correspondence be considered:-

Gareth Sharpe  
Aylesford Pterodactyls CC

- Request to use Cricket Facilities

A request was **READ** from Aylesford Pterodactyls Cricket Club to use the cricket facilities at Ditton next season. It was **NOTED** that the club only expects to play 6 home games as they only play social cricket. The Grounds Supervisor had already met with Mr Sharpe from the Club and explained that the Council would need approximately 15 games to make preparing the pitch financially viable. Various suggestions from the club to generate the additional income such as using the pitch for practice sessions, sharing the pitch with another team or Aylesford School were **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED**

TO REPLY TO THE CRICKET CLUB ADVISING THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS AN INCOME OF £400.00 (EITHER FROM THE CLUB ALONE OR JOINTLY WITH ANOTHER TEAM OR THE SCHOOL) TO PREPARE THE GROUND AND CARRY OUT BASIC MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. ON TOP OF THIS THERE WOULD BE COSTS OF HIRING CHANGING FACILITIES AND TEA ROOMS.

Mr G West

- Request to use football pitch nearest to the multi-sports for U15's Boys team for 2007/08

The letter which Mr West brought to the meeting during the adjournment was **READ** and his request to use the pitch on Sunday afternoons was **NOTED**. Discussion took place and it was **NOTED** that this pitch was to be used every week by Ditton Minors on Sunday mornings and this Council had already refused other requests to play on the pitch on Sunday afternoons because it could lead to it being 'over-played'.

**RESOLVED**

TO REPLY TO MR WEST ADVISING THAT THIS COUNCIL HAD ALREADY REFUSED OTHER REQUESTS TO PLAY ON THIS PITCH ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS TO PREVENT THE PITCH BEING OVER-PLAYED. ALSO TO SUGGEST HE ASK DITTON MINORS IF THEIR PITCH AT NRRG WAS AVAILABLE.

643. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

Kent County Playing Fields  
Assoc.

- Newsletter – April 2007

Notice of AGM

**READ** and **NOTED**.

Holtwood Rangers

- Chartered Standard Status

**READ** and **NOTED** that Holtwood Rangers had been awarded the Standard Chartered Status from the Football Association.

**RESOLVED**

TO WRITE TO HOLTWOOD RANGERS TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON RECEIVING THE CHARTERED STANDARD STATUS FROM THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

- Letter of thanks to Nigel Saunders

**READ** and **NOTED**. Members also congratulated Nigel on the excellent work carried out by him and his team.

644. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.53pm.

Chairman  
9<sup>th</sup> May 2007