

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 FEBRUARY 2007

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

511. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.57pm.

512. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies previously notified, were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Mulcuck, Mrs Mulcuck and Stone.

513. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Angel declared a personal interest in Item 515(c) because he lives in Ragstone Court.

514. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis

It was **NOTED** that there was no Financial Analysis available.

(b) Safety Goggles

It was **NOTED** that Graeme Sedgwick needs to wear glasses but the usual safety goggles used for strimming and using the chainsaw etc, will not fit over his glasses. It was NOTED that KCC had suggested using a visor but these can "steam up". It was FURTHER **NOTED** that it is possible to obtain safety goggles that have a prescription glass built in.

RESOLVED appropriate safety goggles should be purchased for Graeme in the interests of Health and Safety.

(c) Request to slip forward funds for Painting of Play Equipment at NRRG

It was **NOTED** that the play equipment at NRRG had still not been repainted. The money to pay for this work had been slipped forward but would need to be slipped forward again if the work was not completed by the end of March. The Administrative Assistant advised that the contractor had just been in contact to confirm that he would still like to do the work at the end of March this year.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the £1,300.00 set aside for repainting the play equipment at NRRG, be slipped forward if the work is not completed by the end of March this year.

The Chairman requested that two additional finance matters be considered:

(d) Church Floodlighting and Up-keep of Churchyard Unpaid in 2005/06

The Administrative Assistant advised that the Church had not requested payment of the fees for the up-keep of the churchyard (£200.00) or church floodlighting (£200.00) during 2005/06 and therefore this had not been paid. The Church have just realised that they have not had this money and asked if the Parish Council can now pay this amount.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Full Council pay the outstanding £400.00 and decide where it could be paid from.

(e) Unpaid Multi-Sports Account 2005/06

The Administrative Assistant advised that despite numerous letters, an amount of £410.00 remained unpaid by Mark Hunter, a former hirer of the multi-sports court. It was **NOTED** that the Council had been previously informed by the hirer that he had been declared bankrupt and the Council would be added to the creditors list. In the circumstances it is unlikely that the Council will receive any payment.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the amount of £410.00 owed to the Council by Mark Hunter for use of the multi-sports, be written off.

515. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 260, Item 445(a)]

It was **NOTED** that a new management plan had been drafted.

(b) School Clock (Page 260, Item 445(b))

It was **NOTED** that the clock was now in position.

(c) Property Boundaries Ragstone Court (Page 260, Item 445(c))

It was **NOTED** that there was no further information.

(d) Dog Loo (Page 260, Item 445(d))

It was **NOTED** that there was no further information regarding new dog bins. It was **NOTED** that the dog loo still does not appear to be used and children have been seen riding through it on their bikes.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the hedge is taken down and the area is no longer used as a dog loo.

(e) Village Green (Page 264, Item 449)

It was **NOTED** that a quotation for trimming the Ash Tree had not yet been received.

516. **PROVISION FOR YOUTH**

The Administrative Assistant advised that at the recent meeting with the young people of Ditton, it had become apparent that they would really like an area that was lit so they could meet up and play football in the evenings. They would like to use the multi-sports courts but they are always booked out to regular hirers. Following this the Administrative Assistant had asked Monster Play, who had previously quoted for a goal end/basket ball hoop at New Road, to do a new quotation for something similar at KBRG next to the multi-sports. It was also **NOTED** that Tom, the Community Warden would be able to obtain a grant for part of the project and also Co Cllr Geoff Rowe may be able to assist with a grant.

The quotation was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that it included the removal of the existing fidget station and installation of a new modern youth shelter. Discussion took place on the suitability of a youth shelter with sides.

RESOLVED that an additional quotation be obtained for a youth shelter without sides.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that this project go ahead subject to funding being found.

517. **PLANTING OF TREE IN MEMORY OF DORIS COOPER**

It was **NOTED** that the WI had requested permission to place a plaque or plant a tree in memory of Doris Cooper and at the last Full Council meeting it had been agreed that they be given permission to plant a tree. It was also **NOTED** that the decision on species and location of the tree was to be made by this Committee. The Grounds Supervisor suggested an ornamental Cherry Tree may be suitable and could be located on one of the "islands" in the car park. Cllr Angel suggested that a 'Robinia pseudoacacia' might be good as it has pretty yellow flowers and would be 'brighter'.

RESOLVED Cllr Angel to supply details of the 'Robinia Pseudoacacia' to enable the Grounds Supervisor to see if it would be suitable for the area suggested. If so the details will be passed on to the WI.

518. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

The Grounds Supervisor CIRCULATED photographs and a plan of how the allotments could be extended. Discussion took place and the preferred option would be to have a further six plots to the south of the existing site.

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation for the groundwork required to extend the site.

519. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

Ditton Minors

- Request for small pitch

A letter from Ditton Minors requesting an additional small football pitch if the cricket square is not to be used was **READ**. The Grounds Supervisor explained that it would not be possible to have another pitch as there was insufficient space.

RESOVLED TO WRITE TO DITTON MINORS ADVISING THAT ANOTHER PITCH WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT SPACE.

Ditton Church Pre-School

- Request to hold Summer Fair on Village Green

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST.

Kent Community Rail P'ship

- Invitation to Stakeholder Meeting

This invitation was **READ** and **NOTED**.

520. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

NSALG

- Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 1 2007

521. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

Chairman
5th March 2007