

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE** HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023**

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS A THROSSELL [VICE-CHAIR] MRS J DEARDEN, A MULCUCK,
N NEWMAN & D ADDLINGTON
MRS G JEFFS [AMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT]

367. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Vice - Chair at 7.30pm.

368. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

369. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None received.

370. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis Month 9

CIRCULATED, READ & NOTED

Cllr Mulcuck asked at which month a request could be made to roll over any 'unspent budget'. Cllr Newman replied that it can be considered at month 12.

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that after the Agenda was published some items for discussion had been received and due to the time sensitivity the Vice –Chair accepted these for discussion.

(b) School Grounds maintenance fee increase

A discussion took place with regards to submitting an increase to the fees charged to the Schools for their grounds maintenance contracts. After careful consideration and due to increasing costs it was suggested that an increase of 8% would be appropriate to cover increases to salaries and machinery costs.

RESOLVED To write to the Infant and Junior Schools advising it will be necessary to apply an 8% increase to the current School grounds contract fees.

(c) Mower Purchase

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** the agreed mower attachment from which the funds were **AGREED** at the Finance & Administration Committee

meeting of the 3rd January 2023 was no longer available to buy. To purchase the same/similar attachment the price had increased.

RESOLVED to purchase the Votex Parkmaster 170 and the current 'gang mowers' would be sold on to assist with the increased purchase price.

371. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) Tenancy Agreement Review

As requested the Administrative Assistant produced the second draft new tenancy agreement. It was **CIRCULATED** to all committee members and **READ**. A discussion took place and it was **AGREED** that point 15 re the waste trailer is to be removed and a further point regarding the shelter is to be added. This agreement will then be sent to Full Council for ratification and possible further discussion.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND the substantial amendment's made by the sub – committee be accepted.

(b) Replacement Shelter – new steps proposal

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that a site meeting was attended by the Allotment Managers and members of DATS at which a discussion of the proposed steps took place. It was **NOTED** DATs had proposed a wide step of approximately 6'x3' be installed in front of the new shelter. However it was suggested that a smaller step, similar to the "pea pod" step would be sufficient.

It was further **NOTED** that the shelter **MUST** be left open for ALL to use. It was also **NOTED** that DATS had said they didn't feel it necessary to give a key to the Parish Council as the shelter would always be unlocked.

RESOLVED to advise DATs that one step can be installed but it must not exceed 50cm away from the shelter. Also to inform them that if the shelter is found to be locked at anytime, the Council will write to DATs for an explanation.

(c) Trailer discussion for allotment waste/location

A discussion took place regarding the location and use of the trailer now that the replacement shelter is in place. As the shelter has come forward to allow hedge cutting this is making it difficult for access. DATs had made a request to place the waste trailer outside of the allotments. However it is felt the waste trailer would be vulnerable to misuse. A discussion took place about the provision of waste disposal to the tenants and it was **NOTED** that other councils do not provide this but they do allow bonfires to burn non compostable waste. It was confirmed that bonfires are not allowed at DPC allotments.

RESOLVED The Administrative Assistant to contact allotment representatives and report this. The tenancy agreement will be amended to reflect this.

372. **FLOODLIGHT REFURBISHMENT**(a) Update if available

It was **REPORTED** the light and fencing contractors have completed works and the new lights now come on immediately and illuminate both courts. It was further **NOTED** that regular users of the MUGA have expressed their thanks and delight at the new lights.

373. **TREES**(a) Update and plaques

It was **REPORTED** the tree saplings had been planted in the **AGREED** location and so far these are 'taking' well.

RESOLVED that two commemorative plaques are to be purchased. One celebrating the Queens Jubilee with the inscription - 'These trees were planted In memory of Queen Elizabeth II who reigned for 70 years 1952 to 2022' and one celebrating the King's Coronation - 'These trees were planted in celebration of King Charles III Coronation 6th May 2023'.

The plaques to be purchased must be brass, copper or of metal material.

374. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that one email correspondence had arisen after the Agenda had been sent out.

A request had been received from a young resident regarding the installation of a cycling pump track.

RESOLVED to reply advising that the Council thanks the resident for writing in and whilst this is a fantastic idea and the Council has carefully considered this. Unfortunately, there is not a suitable location big enough and far enough away from resident's houses, with good access

375. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman
6th March 2023

