

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2017**

PRESENT: CLLRS A PIPER (CHAIR), MRS A THROSSELL, M PORTER, P DALTON,
A MULCUCK, R PRICE
MRS P ALEXANDER (Administrative Assistant)

555. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.38pm. The Chair requested that another member of the Committee take over the meeting due to a medical issue. In the absence of the Vice Chair, Cllr A Mulcuck was nominated, seconded and agreed to chair the meeting.

556. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Mrs J Thwaites (Vice Chair) the previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the Absence Book Ref: 353 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

557. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

Cllr A Piper declared a personal interest in Item 561 as he keeps an allotment.

558. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis Month 11**

The previously **CIRCULATED** financial analysis and associated notes were **READ** and **NOTED**.

(b) **Trees/Planting Work Budget Adjustment**

It was **READ** and **NOTED** that the Clerk has agreed to request that the Accountants slip forward the £975 funds earmarked for tree work in the 2016/17 budget to the current 2017/18 budget. This is due to being let down by the chosen contractor who should have completed the tree work and invoiced in the 2016/17 financial year.

(c) **Quarry Maintenance Budget Adjustment**

It was **READ** and **NOTED** that the Clerk has agreed to request that the Accountants slip forward the £450 funds earmarked for the steps and rail installation by the Thursday Group in the 2016/17 budget to the current 2017/18 budget. This is due to KCC Accounts Department issuing an April invoice despite the department promised March one.

Cllr Mulcuck expressed concern for the ongoing maintenance of the Quarry in regards to the current reduced budget.

559. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- (a)
- Footpath Protection (Open Spaces Society) Update (Mar 2017, Page 233, Item 513(a))

The Chair of the Sub-Committee gave an update and circulated maps showing the footpaths currently under investigation for future possible registration on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. It was **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee was Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

- (b)
- Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation (Mar 2017, Page 233, Item 513(b))

It was **READ** and **NOTED** that the Parish Council are awaiting the agenda and date of a meeting with TMBC to determine a separate additional request PSPO in regards to keeping dogs on leads at all times on the Recreation Grounds and Village Green.

560. **RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS**

- (a)
- New Play Equipment for New Road Recreation Ground – Sub-Committee Update (Mar 2017, Page 234, Item 514(a))

The preferred scheme put forward by the Sub-Committee for the new playground equipment was available for the Committee to peruse. There was much discussion around the cost of the scheme regarding the £30k budgeted by the Parish Council and the further £10k pledged by Gallagher Group Ltd to complete the project.

RESOLVED to:

- confirm the pledged funding to ensure the total cost of the new equipment £39,999 is covered. If not, to reduce the specification to £30k as budgeted.
- Investigate costs of providing CCTV to cover the playground.

- (b)
- Annual Multi Sports Booking Review (Mar 2017, Page 233, Item 513(b))

It was **NOTED** that the MUGA Booking Form was being reviewed alongside the Community Centre revised booking information to ensure consistency.

RESOLVED for the Administrative Assistant to return the reviewed Booking Form to this meeting for consideration when completed.

- (c)
- Recreation Ground – Large Event Fees

This item was returned to this meeting at the request of the Community Centre Committee. Historical room hire fees and the low admin fee currently in place for outdoor events was discussed in relation to the income lost to the Community Centre and car parking issues.

RESOLVED for the Administrative Assistant to inform the regular users of the recreation ground that a review is under way and investigate the associated costs to the Parish Council of holding large events.

561. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

- (a)
- Review of Tenancy Agreement (Mar 2017, Page 235, Item 515(a))

The Administrative Assistant informed the meeting she had not yet been able to review the tenancy agreement but would return to the next meeting for consideration.

562. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**

It was **READ** and **NOTED** that as part of their 2017 Events Programme, The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership wanted to include a Plant Hunters Workshop in the Quarry.

RESOLVED to accede to this request and offer to advertise the workshop to Ditton residents.

563. **TREES**

Cllr Piper updated the meeting on the forthcoming Tree Survey and the suffering of some trees due to the current lack of rainfall.

564. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION – GENERAL**(a) **Mr R Hurst – Children’s Play Areas Petition**

The signing of the petition in relation to football clubs paying towards local area playgrounds was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should sign the petition.

565. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The following correspondence was **READ** and **NOTED**.

<u>Fields In Trust</u>	Have a Field Day and Love Your Local Park AGM Information 6 th June 2017
<u>National Allotment Society</u>	Spring News 2017 AGM Information 10 TH June 2017
<u>CPRE Countryside Voice</u>	Spring 2017
<u>CPRE Kent Voice</u>	Spring/Summer 2017
<u>The Kent Men of the Trees</u>	Spring Magazine AGM Information 15 th April 2017 Programme of Events May to October 2017
<u>County Playing Fields Association</u>	National CPFA Conference - Wednesday 14 th June 2017

566. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.

Chairman
8th May 2017

