

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> MARCH 2020

PRESENT: CLLRS MR A MULCUCK (CHAIR)  
MRS J DEARDEN, MR J LOVER, MR C ROOK AND MR N NEWMAN  
MR N SAUNDERS (Grounds Supervisor)  
MRS G JEFFS (Administrative Assistant)  
MRS N GREENAWAY (Clerk to the Council)

491. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 8.01pm.

492. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs K Dennison, Cllr Mrs J Thwaites, Cllr M Porter, Cllr Mrs A Throssel and Cllr Mrs G Godden. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** and recorded in the absence book Ref. 455.

493. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None Received.

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\*\*\*\*\* **ADJOURNMENT** \*\*\*\*\*

Mr Harrison was in attendance to discuss maintenance issues in the quarry. Mr Harrison advised members that he volunteers in the Quarry and takes a very active roll in the organisation of the volunteers and working days, litter pickers and meetings It was **NOTED** that is was increasingly difficult to arrange a meeting of the management committee so it has been **AGREED** from now on a walk round will take place once a year and the name of the committee will change to Quarry advisory Panel/Group. Any issues arising will be passed to the Open Spaces Committee.

Mr Harrison then spoke about the wildflower meadow and explained that it has recently been cut by the Council's grounds staff using a hay baler that was purchased by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership through a Big Lottery Grant. It was noted that the hay baler is used by other organisations too. Mr Harrison advised that he attended a meeting with Medway Valley Country Partnership who are responsible for the loaning of the 'Hay Baling Equipment'. Mr Harrison outlined proposals for charges to those organisations that would use the equipment in the future to cover its maintenance etc. Mr Harrison was thanked for attending and advised that the Committee would go back into session to make a decision on the proposal for charges but he was welcome to stay.

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The Chairman moved that item 9 on the Agenda [minute no. 494] be brought forward to enable Mr Harrison to hear the Council's decision.



494. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**(a) Proposed Quarry solution to management committee/advisory panel

**RESOLVED** to change the name of the Quarry Management Committee to the Quarry Advisory Panel.

(b) Proposed Quarry Charges for Haymaking facilities

Discussion took place and members felt that the proposed fees were quite high at £80 per day and a suggestion was made that £30 per day would be more reasonable as the Council Grounds Staff would be collecting/returning the equipment plus using the Council's tractor.

**RESOLVED** to go back to the MVCP with the council's suggestion for reduced charges.

495. **FINANCE**(a) Month 11

**CIRCULATED, READ and NOTED.**

496. **RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS**(a) Request for use – Dog Training Monthly – Full consideration Request (update)

It was **NOTED** there was no update on this item.

(b) Request for use - Ditton Minors tournament and BBQ

A request was **READ** and the request for a Tournament and BBQ **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED** to accede to this request.

(c) VAT on Admin Fees for the recreational grounds

It was **NOTED** the accountants had advised that the Admin Fee for Businesses using the Recreational Grounds should be plus VAT as this is a service therefore the fee of £30 being charged was treated as inclusive of VAT.

**RESOLVED** the Admin fee now be £30 plus VAT.

(d) Ditton Minors Soccer School – Date and admin fee review

A request was **READ** for the dates for the Soccer School to start. It was also **AGREED** that an Admin Fee will be applicable.

**RESOLVED** It accede to this request and make the relevant admin fee charge.

(e) Ditton Minors Pitch extension

A request was **READ** regarding increasing the time allowed to play on the pitches.

**RESOLVED** not to accede to this request.

(f) Charity Football match – request

A request was **READ** for a Charity Football match to be held on the Kiln Barn Recreational Grounds in April. It was **AGREED** the fees would be waived.

**RESOLVED** It accede to this request.

(g) Pitch Request

A request was **READ** from Castle Colts to take a now vacant slot on Sunday mornings due to the current Sunday morning men's team leaving the league.

**RESOLVED** To accede to this request

**REPLACEMENT OF SHARED BENCH - LONDON ROAD**

(a) Jubilee Bench – shared responsibility with East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council – Vandalism.

It was **REPORTED** the shared Jubilee Bench with East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council had been badly vandalised beyond repair. It was **NOTED** that it had been removed by the Groundstaff. It was further **NOTED** that East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council had a bench they did not require. This was collected and re painted by the Groundstaff and then placed back on the site on the London Road.

497. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) It was **NOTED** an Allotment rent was still outstanding. The Administrative Assistant has tried to make contact via, letters, telephone and email and has had no response. This has been since December.

**RESOLVED** The Administrative Assistant to contact the plot holder and terminate the Tenancy Agreement.

It was **NOTED** an allotment inspection will not take place until April.

498. **TREES AND PLANTING**

(a) Update on tree works

It was **NOTED** that all the major tree works had been completed in the Village with a few minor jobs to be done which will go ahead in the Autumn.

(b) Winter Tree Survey

The Winter Tree Survey was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the majority of the trees were in good order. A couple of trees have been highlighted to be reduced.

**RESOLVED** A quotation will be sought and this will be considered at a future meeting.

499. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**

This was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

500. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

(a) The Kent Men of Trees Competition 2020 (herewith)

**CIRCULATED, READ and NOTED**

501. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman  
2020

