

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 16th JULY 2018

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS K DENNISON [CHAIR], MRS A THROSSELL, P JOBLING, A MULCUCK, J COOPER, J DEARDEN and MRS J THAWIATES
MR N SAUNDERS (Grounds Supervisor)
MRS G JEFFS (Administrative Assistant)

154. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.43pm.

155. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllr Mr P Dalton. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the Absence Book Ref: 397 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

156. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 7 as her Husband retains an allotment. Cllr Dearden declared an interest in item number 10 as she co owns the Pre School.

157. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis Month 2**

Cllr Dennison explained why the percentages are used on the Financial Analysis. This was **ACCPECTED** and understood.

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

(a) **Recreational Grounds new Terms and Conditions**

The Proposed Terms and Conditions were read and understood. It was suggested a section about English Byelaws and the use of motorised vehicles being prohibited should be included. . It was also **NOTED** the Councillors felt these Terms and Conditions were comprehensive and a large amount of work had been carried out.

RESOLVED The Administrative Assistant is to amend the Terms and Conditions with the included byelaws.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND The new Terms and Conditions for Recreational Grounds, be approved and adopted.

(b) **Football pitch hire fees**

The pitch hire fee research was **READ** and **NOTED**. It was **AGREED** the pitch Hire fees for all football clubs on our Recreational Grounds would now incur a 10% price increase. Cllr Thwaites proposed and Cllr Jobling seconded this increase. It was **NOTED** a Contract exists for the New Road Recreational Grounds. The Administrative Assistant will locate this document. It was **NOTED** if any football teams go over their start and end dates matches will be charged for per match.

RESOLVED Increase Pitch Fees by 10% for the new season. The Administrative Assistant is to contact the football teams by letter to inform of these changes.

(c) War Memorial update on planting

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** local Businesses had been contacted and told about the plans to re plant the war memorial and so far Homebase had donated a £20.00 gift voucher and Hadlow College had agreed to supply shrubbery and plants that they had at the end of the season. A grant had also been approved by Cllr Peter Homewood from KCC for the Stone Planters. It was suggested that it would be nice for a tree to be planted or a bench to be placed in the village for the 100th centenary. It was **NOTED** if we were able to get some coloured lavenders red and white would be a lovely gesture. It was **REPORTED** by Cllr Mulcuck he has received 150 crocheted poppies for remembrance service.

RESOLVED The Administrative Assistant to contact further businesses to ask for a donation of a tree.

159. **RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS**

(a) Business Use on the Recreation Grounds – Keep Fit Boot camp request

A request for a fitness boot camp, times and days of use were **NOTED** . It was **AGREED** the Day use would be available but the evening use was declined due to the overuse in the evening and wear and tear the recreational grounds would incur.

RESOLVED Contact the owner of the boot camp company and explain what use is **APPROVED** and **DECLINED**.

(b) Castle Colts football pitch request dates

It was **NOTED** the request for Pitch Use and dates were **AGREED**.

(c) Ditton Minors football pitch request dates

It was **NOTED** the request for pitch use and dates were partially **AGREED** with some days **DECLINED**. The Council have agreed to the dates the football club had last season. This was discussed and partial dates **DECLINED** due to the over use on some of the pitches with the growing number of teams. An email from Mr Driver from Ditton Minors Football club was **READ, CIRCULATED** and **NOTED**.

(d) Request for hire of the recreational grounds – staff fun afternoon August 2018

A request from a local business to hold their annual fun day at the recreational grounds on a date in August 2018.

RESOLVED To accede to this request.

It was noted further requests to use the Recreational Grounds had been received:

LL Coaching Football soccer school, Ditton Minors (millwall football school) request for dates for the summer soccer schools. A request was also received for football training sessions to be run on the recreational grounds for children through the summer holidays. It was **NOTED** the Grounds Supervisor would indicate a location for these groups to use on a daily basis to try and keep wear and tear to a minimum. All dates have been **APPROVED**.

It was **REPORTED** a large number of requests are being received for use of the recreational grounds. It was suggested the council should further review the administrative charges, to take into account the wear and tear on the grounds and number of requests. An hourly charge was also discussed but further discussion was required.

160. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(a) Allotment 14b letter

It was **NOTED** a letter was sent with regards to the allotments current condition. It was **NOTED** the allotment holder was very apologetic and had cleared the allotment and the photographs were shown and **ACCEPTED**.

(b) Update on request for second meeting with DATS

It was **REPORTED** the Administrative Assistant had met with Mike Hawksworth from the Allotment Association and discussed the 'Pea Pod' building and current open shelter to which dimensions were given. The dimensions of the 'Pea Pod' were confirmed at the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 16th May 2016 being 4.5m x 5meters 22.5m² but the building is 5.9 x 3m 17.7m². This is smaller than agreed and sufficient space has been left around the building to allow cutting of the hedges. Pictures were circulated of the 'old shelter' which is for non DATS members and also house the Parish council notice board. Discussion took place about to keeping the 'old shelter'.

RESOLVED To inform DATS the existing shelter could remain in place.

161. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** a meeting could not be arranged with summer holidays looming and a meeting will be arranged for the Autumn. Cllr Mulcuck asked if he was able to purchase X 50 (with 25 Free) English Bluebells for £20.00. This was **AGREED**.

RESOLVED To accede to this request.

162. **TREES**

NOTED Nothing to report at this time.

163. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION – GENERAL****Request use of Conservation Area for Pre School Picnic**

A request from the Church Pre-School was received for the children to use the conservation area for their end of term picnic.

RESOLVED To accede this request.

It was **REPORTED** a further complaint was received from a resident regarding the use of the land by the pre school for forest schooling. The complaint was the noise level when the children were blowing whistles and the Parish Councils decision to allow the pre school to use the land. It was **AGREED** the whistle blowing was very loud as this could be heard from the office. It was **AGREED** a letter of apology should be sent from the pre school regarding the whistling to the resident.

164. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

- (a) Field Notes for Summer 2018
- (b) Fields in Trust June 2018
- (c) Campaign to Protect Rural England
- (d) Open Spaces Society – Open Spaces Summer 2018 AGM Details

CIRCULATED, READ and NOTED.

165. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.09pm

Chairman
6th August 2018