

**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> OCTOBER 2017**

PRESENT: CLLRS A PIPER (CHAIR), MRS A THROSSELL, MRS J DEARDEN, MRS K DENNISON, A MULCUCK  
MR N SAUNDERS (Grounds Supervisor)  
MRS P ALEXANDER (Administrative Assistant)

270. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.42pm.

271. **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: 373 and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

272. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs J Dearden declared a personal interest in Item 275(a)(ii) as she lives beside this footpath. Cllr A Piper declared a personal interest in Item 277 as he keeps an allotment. Cllr T Mulcuck declared an interest in Item 273(a) as he is a member of the Bowls Club.

273. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis Month 5**

The financial analysis previously circulated was **READ** and **NOTED**. Budget 4048 (Tractor/Mower Repairs) was discussed in relation to the repairs already undertaken and the servicing cost to come which would be taken into consideration at the Estimates Meeting for the 2018/19 budget.

Also discussed in preparation for the Estimates meeting were the upcoming quotations for the winter tree work and various fencing repairs and replacements, including a 2.2m height locking varying option opening barrier for the track that would serve the Bowls Club and allotment holders.

274. **GROUNDS WORK UPDATE**

The previously circulated Report from the Grounds Staff Supervisor was **READ** and **NOTED** on the upcoming and completed works. Of particular interest was the Village Sign being taken down for refurbishment.

## 275. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### (a) Footpath Protection (Open Spaces Society) Update (Sept 2017, Page 93, Item 226(a))

#### i) Quarry Circular Footpath

It was **NOTED** that there had been a good response from the Gazette item highlighting the quarry circular footpath with a lot of questionnaires returned already.

Although La Farge had requested a site meeting to discuss the route, they still had to confirm a date.

#### ii) Woodlands Road/Linkway

A site meeting had taken place and it was **AGREED** not to pursue this walkway due to lack of use and the current gates providing more security for the rear of the houses backing onto the plot.

#### iii) Other routes identified

From the site meeting two further routes were identified, Golding Close to Woodlands Road and Medina Road to Nursery Road.

**RESOLVED** to send 25 questionnaires when ready to the Headmaster of Aylesford School so the questionnaires can be given to those children using Medina to Nursery Road footpath as a shortcut home.

### (b) Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation Update (Sept 2017, Page 94, Item 226(b))

It was **READ** and **NOTED** that the outcome of the TMBC meeting was that they would not be adding additional PSPO's to the Borough one. Therefore for the time being the recreation grounds and village green will continue to be for dogs off the lead only if they are under control as the current legislation allows.

## 276. RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS

### (a) Ditton Minors Football Club – Refurbished NRRG Changing Rooms Update Update (Sept 2017, Page 94, Item 227(c))

It was **NOTED** that Ditton Minors had changed the changing room doors to all black which was accepted subject to the Chairs perusal.

### (b) MultiSports - Change of Surface

The review undertaken for the current decline in use of the MultiSports was **READ** and **NOTED**. This was because of reports of the surface reportedly being slippery when wet and 3G options available locally. An alternative 3G surface was discussed to make the MultiSports a more competitive option in line with other local facilities.

**RESOLVED** to await the American Health Report into the possible health issues linked to 3G pitch materials before discussing this option further.

### (c) lplay Replacement

It was **NOTED** the lplay still remained in situ although no longer playable.

**RESOLVED** to pursue quotations for a new larger shelter similar to the previous 'fidget station' to be taken into consideration at the Estimates Meeting for the 2018/19 budget.

277. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** that the seasonal skip would be in place soon and it would revert to a 6 yard after the one off larger one of last year.

(a) **Tenancy Issues Update**

It was **NOTED** that another plot had become available and would be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

278. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**

The proposal put forward from the Quarry Management Group regarding the provision of steps in the 'little valley' was **READ** and **NOTED** alongside the notes taken at the Annual Quarry Walkabout.

**RESOLVED** to forward the proposal to the Estimates Meeting for consideration for the 2018/19 budget.

(a) **Use of the Nature Reserve for organised events**

It was **READ** and **NOTED** that Ditton Minors had spoken to their managers and that in future all managers wishing to undertake fund raising activities on Parish Land would inform their management team first so that appropriate permissions could be sought first. However it was also agreed that the Quarry should not be used for any activity that could interrupt others enjoyment of this peaceful area.

279. **TREES**

Quotations for the proposed winter work from the tree survey had been sought and were **READ** and **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED** to go ahead with quotation B and for the payment to be taken from the current Trees/Planting budget and the remainder from the accrued 5Yr Plan monies.

280. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION – GENERAL**

**NOTED**, none received.

281. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

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

FIT Fields in Trust

September 2017 Ezine  
2017 Awards Nominations  
Water Voles

Mrs C Gale

282. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2017