

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE** HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

PRESENT: CLLRS A WATERS (CHAIR), J COX (VICE-CHAIR), L COX, N NEWMAN, MRS A THROSSELL, A MULCUCK, MRS K NASH, D ADLINGTON & MRS M NEWMAN
MRS N GREENAWAY (CLERK OF THE COUNCIL)
MRS S CRAIG (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR)

182. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.43pm.

183. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Dearden. The previously notified reason for absence was **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** and recorded in the absence book Ref. 554.

184. **CO-OPTION TO COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs M Newman was **PROPOSED** by Cllr COX and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs COX. Cllr Mrs M Newman was duly co-opted as a member of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee.

185. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

186. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial analysis Month 3**

READ and NOTED.

It was **NOTED** that committee members had agreed to an increase of 10% to all football pitch related fees for the coming season. It was further **NOTED** that this had to be agreed prior to September to allow sufficient time to notify the teams prior to the commencement of the new season. The pitch fees per team for the 2024/25 season will be:

Adult teams	-	£547.80
Junior teams	-	£275.00

For New Road Rec:

First set up line marking fee	£51.48
Weekly marking out fee	£25.74

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

(a) Update on outstanding actions

- Fence repairs – these will be covered under the item for fences
- Waste bin at junction of Bradbourne and A20 – this will be raised with the Borough Councillors at the next opportunity.
- Location of Beach Tree – to be looked at in September along with request for a memorial tree.
- Gatepost near to Grounds Staff building – covered in later item.
- NRRG changing rooms – a revised quote was received and actioned. This will be discussed under its own heading later in the meeting.
- Maintenance strategies including hedgerow cutting schedule – covered under separate item

188. **NRRG CHANGING ROOMS**

The work has been completed per the revised quotation. The rendering has been done and the guttering and fascia. However there was an issue with the direction of the downpipe allowing water to flow to the path next to the Scout hut so the Grounds Staff have temporarily re-routed it until the contractor can return to make a more permanent solution.

189. **FENCES**

(a) NRRG

The Holly bushes are thriving and a Blackthorn will need to be purchased and planted in November.

(b) Quarry Entrance/Edge of PROW MR481

The grounds staff have materials to repair parts of the existing fence and will undertake this task as soon as their schedule allows.

It was suggested that once the fence is repaired, hedging should be planted to re-enforce this boundary. It was agreed to ensure that whatever is planted is “dog friendly”.

More of the fence from the recreation ground along MR481 is in disrepair and this will also be repaired when time and materials allow.

(c) Gate Post at Trace entrance by compound

The Clerk said she did not think that the insurance company had been contacted and if not as so much time had passed it was unlikely any claim would be successful so the cost of replacement will be investigated.

190. **DRAFT STRATEGIES FOR RECREATION GROUNDS AND WAR MEMERIAL**

The Chairman advised that the draft strategies would be updated to include the tree surveys for each area [recreation grounds, quarry, village green and conservation area].

Cllr Mulcuck suggested it might be beneficial to look into setting up a "Friends of the Quarry" group to assist with the maintenance and upkeep per the management plan.

It was **NOTED** inappropriate planting had been undertaken for the raised beds at the War Memorial and more suitable plants would be required to replace what was there.

It was acknowledged that the Green Flag Scheme had some good points to bear in mind for the management of the open spaces and could be used as guidance.

It was **NOTED** that although the management of hedgerows regulations do not apply to the Parish Council, they represent best practice and would be helpful in the management of the Bradbourne Lane Conservation Area, New Road Rec and areas in the Quarry LNR and undertaking all hedgecutting.

191. **PLAY GROUNDS** - update on repairs

It was **NOTED** a quotation had been received to repair "raised and shrunken" edges to some of the safety surfaces in the Kilbarn Road play area. It was acknowledged this needed to be undertaken as soon as possible as it was a trip hazard. The quote from Safeplay to undertake the repairs for £1,300.00 plus VAT was approved.

It was agreed that the quotation of over £1,000.00 to replace the Lillie swing was too high and this matter be put on hold for now.

192. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **NOTED** there were two outstanding issues – new plot markers and replacement of lagging to the water pipes. The Clerk will speak to the Grounds Supervisor about these issues.

It was agreed that the Allotment Managers need to arrange the next allotment inspection. A provisional date of Friday 4th October was agreed, subject to the new plot markers being in place by then.

193. **MUGA** - update on repairs

It was **NOTED** some fungus that had appeared on an area of the new surface had been treated and removed by the contractor but they would need to return to carry out some repair work.

194. **CORRESPONDANCE FOR NOTING**

(a) Allotment magazine – **CIRCULATED, READ and NOTED.**

195. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Chairman
7th October 2024