

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2025**

PRESENT: CLLRS A WATERS (CHAIR), J COX (VICE-CHAIR), N NEWMAN, MRS L COX, MRS A THROSSELL, MRS K NASH, MRS M NEWMAN, D ADLINGTON  
MRS N GREENAWAY (CLERK)  
MRS L FITCHETT (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

471. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.49pm.

472. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Dearden, Mr Mulcuck. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** and recorded in the absence book Ref. 578.

473. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

474. **FINANCE**

it was NOTED Month 12 was not available as the year-end accounts were about to be prepared.

475. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

(a) Machinery Report (update if available) [Page 183 item 438(a)]

It was NOTED that the report is still in draft format and undergoing recent updates.

**RESOLVED** to bring to next meeting and then be presented only for budgetary purposes.

(b) Playground surface repair quote and pear tree root cutting advice [page 183 item 437 (d)]

It was **NOTED** that professional advice received had recommended not cutting back the roots as this would likely kill the tree or destabilise it. It was NOTED that this would be month one of expenditure. A quote had also been received to replace the tarmac with flexible playground surface covering but this would be a large cost. It was suggested that a member of groundstaff be asked if she could fell the tree and remove the stump to save on cost then a quote obtained to tarmac over when done.

**RESOLVED** that the tree would have to be removed for safety purposes and further information on removal and costs be brought to full council if available.

Water bowser purchased [page 183, item 437 (b)]

This is on order delivery due by early May.

(c) Larkfield 10K event [page 181 item 443]

This event is still planned. The organisers have dropped the request for extra course metres as wish to continue as planned with arrangement for parking attendee's cars on the day and provide necessary portaloo provision.

(d) Trees

(i) Memorial trees, NRRG Species and Village Green [Page 184,Item 438(b)(ii)]

A quote for the suggested Swedish Whitebeam was **NOTED**. A question was raised re the toxicity of the berries?

**RESOLVED** to defer this now until the Autumn planting season and report on berries then.

(ii) Possible location of Beech Tree (replacing removed Kilnbarn Poplar tree) [page 100, item 241(b)]

**RESOLVED** to review in September both cost and position of potential tree by way of a location map.

#### 476. **TREES & PLANTING**

(a) Tree works update – recent pollarding

Admin assistant advised that all works were now complete. Next survey is July with winter works currently being planned.

(b) Twinning 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary flowerbed update.

The Memorial stone has now been delivered. It was noted that as the Twinning visit has now been delayed until September, the planned bedding plants may not last until then so it would be beneficial to include suitable shrubs in the planting. The Admin Assistant confirmed that a photo will be sent to Gallagher's upon completion of the bed. The Twinning Committee are to provide the plaque for the stone.

**RESOLVED** to now part plant with shrubs and some bedding plants, as agreed by both Grounds Supervisor and Chair of the Twinning Committee.

#### 477. **ALLOTMENTS**

a) Waiting list update, plot terminations and inspection schedule.

It was **NOTED** that there had been some recent movement regarding plot holders. New plots will be offered to the current applicants, some on the list had declined and those further down the list were then offered. It was **NOTED** that not all terminations had resulted in plots being cleared of belongings and ground staff had to clear furniture

and hardcore etc. This had resulted in a delay in offering some new plots. It was agreed to revisit this as part of the tenancy agreements to formalise hand over process.

It was **NOTED** that water rates are increasing from this month, a review of water provision/pricing should be undertaken. It was **NOTED** that a neighbouring PC had introduced a separate water charge.

**RESOLVED** for the Admin Assistant to make enquiries with neighbouring PC's and report next month.

It was also **NOTED** that most plots were now being worked on and agreed that the Admin Assistant will continue to monitor the plots until a formal inspection with Councillors takes place.

478. **QUARRY**

It was **NOTED** that the new Land agent for the Tarmac lease is requesting a notice be erected re access permissions.

It was further **NOTED** that the landlord representative had given suggested wording for a 'Permissive Routes' noticeboard at the entrance to the quarry.

**RESOLVED** to place a small notice as suggested at the entrance.

It was also **NOTED** that the delayed walk around the quarry was to take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April with two former volunteers.

479. **DRAFT STRATEGIES FOR RECREATION GROUNDS AND WAR MEMORIAL**

It was **NOTED** that two of five draft strategies proposed by the OSA Chair had been circulated. The Chairman of the Council said he would like to conduct some research into what level of strategy has been required by other councils. Any new strategies or policies would need to be presented to the F&A Committee for adoption to be recommended to Full Council.

480. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ditton Church Preschool have requested the use of the village green for their annual sports day in May.

**RESOLVED** to approve this request.

481. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2025