

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **MONDAY 22ND JULY 2024**

PRESENT: CLLRS A WATERS (CHAIR), N NEWMAN, MRS A THROSSELL, A MULCUCK, MRS J DEARDEN, J COX & MRS L COX
MRS N GREENAWAY (CLERK OF THE COUNCIL)
MRS B BENN (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

127. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.55pm.

128. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Nash and Adlington. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** and recorded in the absence book Ref. 550.

129. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

130. **FINANCE**

Financial analysis Month 2

READ and **NOTED**

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

Update on all outstanding actions

Cllr Waters gave an update on the following items

- Waste bin on A20/ Bradbourne Lane Junction – no response from TMBC waste services.
- A suitable location for a beech tree not yet identified.
- No action yet re the fence along the footpath next to the quarry.

RESOLVED to put the request for an additional waste bin to the TMBC Borough Councillors at the next Full Council meeting and to review the fencing at the quarry at the next Open Spaces meeting.

132. **FENCES**

(a) NRRG boundary fence

It was **NOTED** that a resident had raised concerns about a gap in the boundary fence between their property and the New Road Recreation Ground. It was further **NOTED** the grounds staff had carried out work to reduce the gap and holly bushes had been planted to prevent a trip hazard and provide more privacy.

(a) Bradbourne Lane

It was **NOTED** that part of the paling fence was leaning but had been repaired by the grounds staff.

The Chairman advised members that another issue had arisen when the driver of a tanker that had delivered diesel hit and damaged the post that secures the first barrier on the track to the compound.

RESOLVED to contact the company for the cost of repair to the post.

133. **NRRG CHANGING ROOMS**

The Administrative Assistant advised that the contractor has re visited the changing rooms to look at the damaged fascias and guttering. He will update the quote to include the extra work.

RESOLVED to bring the updated quote to the next meeting.

134. **FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGIES FOR RECREATION GROUNDS AND WAR MEMORIAL**

The draft strategies were **DISCUSSED**.

The following points raised:

Clarification on whether MR481, the track past the compound along the bowls club to the quarry was a footpath or a bridleway and a statement be included to say only vehicles with permission may access this track. *When minutes ratified it was noted "it was a footpath".*

The maintenance of the shrubs and the bushes were discussed. To confirm at the next meeting if it is an optional requirement for them not to be disturbed between March to August.

The proposal to make the quarry more "accessible" was discussed and concern about the additional cost and further adaptations was expressed.

The Clerk asked if there would be any benefit to obtaining Green Flag status. Currently is was an award generally given to parks (not recreational grounds) managed by County and District Councils and no parish councils in Kent had this status. More investigation would be required into the benefits for and against, and the costs involved.

It was agreed two tree surveys per year would be sufficient.

It was **NOTED** grounds staff can carry out basic visual play equipment inspections and an annual Rospa Inspection is undertaken by an external company.

Cllr Newman asked if the grounds staff had a water bowser for watering the plants at the war memorial and it was confirmed that they do.

Cllr Waters explained that the Quarry Management Plan was last updated in 2021 but not much was likely to have changed. It was suggested that some of the committee members should take a walk around the quarry and see if there are any areas requiring attention. The bee cliff was discussed and the importance of keeping it free from weeds so that the bees could thrive in their environment.

It was noted that Giant Hogweed had been found in the quarry and had now safely been removed by the grounds staff.

RESOLVED to continue to evolve the draft strategies.

135. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was confirmed that the allotment holders are responsible for the maintenance of the walkways around their plots.

It was also confirmed that the grounds staff would make new plot numbers and lag the water pipe.

136. **PLAY GROUNDS** – update on repairs

Cllr Waters explained that the roundabout in the NRRG play area had been repaired after the vandalism at the cost of £395.00 + VAT.

The Lillie swing in the Kilnbarn recreation ground is still awaiting repair. The clerk advised that a quote of £1885 plus VAT had been given to repair this equipment because there was a design fault and a new part was needed. The play repair company have requested more information from the manufacturer and this will hopefully be available to report at the next meeting.

137. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman
5th August 2024