

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **18th MAY 2026**

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

39. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.35pm.

40. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Waters, A Mulcuck. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book Ref. 612 and accepted and approved.

41. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr J Cox & Mrs L Cox – item 44(b) Memorial Tree – Personal interest

42. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr Mrs Cox was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Cox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Throssell. There being no further nominations, Cllr Mrs Cox was duly elected Vice-Chair of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee for 2026/27.

43. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial analysis – Month 1

READ and **NOTED**.

(b) Kubota Repair estimate

It was **NOTED** that the Kubota is a very well used piece of machinery and needs major repairs to be carried out to the cutting deck gearbox at a cost of £1806.22 plus Vat in **RESOLVED** to authorise cost of repairs.

44. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD**

(a) Conifers on border of NRRG and path repair (page 185 item 453a) updated quote

It was **NOTED** that there had been a marked increase to the quote in the months since the initial quote to carry out these works. Extra costs include a larger area digging down deep enough to put a root barrier protection in and the area requiring edging. This is in order to protect the path from future tree root damage from the tree's the

other side of the boundary fence. The path works are also longer than originally quoted for and will require additional fencing and larger skips etc. Total costs are now £7396. Discussion centred on ownership and liability contributing to the additional costs. **RESOLVED** to defer to Full Council for final decision for funding of this work.

45. **TREES & PLANTING**

(a) Conservation area hedge progress

It was **NOTED** that the new hedgerow planted from last autumn's Woodland Trust collection were doing well in the conservation area.

(b) Memorial Tree Request from Cllr Cox

I was **NOTED** that Cllr Cox has submitted a request to plant a Memorial tree in Memory of his Mother. The recommended tree is a Liriodendron Tulipifera Ardis, subject to availability.

RESOLVED to approve this for autumn planting.

46. **ALLOTMENTS**

Update – Inspection date

The next inspection date was agreed for Friday 22/5/26.

DATS – Secretary - Information update

It was **NOTED** that Norma Webb had tendered her resignation as DATS secretary at the recent DATS AGM. Angela Copping is now the incoming DATS Secretary.

47. **QUARRY/VILLAGE GREEN/CONSERVATION AREA**

Bike Prevention Gates

It was **NOTED** that the Admin Assistant shared details of initial examples and quotes of possible anti-bike gates and that more information is needed.

48. **PLAYGROUNDS**

Update on repairs and maintenance quote

It was **NOTED** that the Grounds Team are working their way through the recommended improvements and repairs raised. It was also **NOTED** that the Admin Assistant advised that enquiries/quotes are being sort to review our current playground inspection plan and include an element of maintenance solutions.

49. **MUGA AND OUTSIDE SPACE HIRE UPDATES**

(a) MUGA Price review due End of May 2026

It was **NOTED** that the previous agreement to freeze fees for 6 months is due for review at the end of May.

RESOLVED to defer the decision to increase for a further 6 months and continue on current rates and review in November.

50. **CHARITY MATCH UPDATE**

Request to hold the same event (Charity Football match) 2nd May 2027.

RESOLVED Agreed.

51. **DITTON MINORS TOURNAMENT JUNE 2026**

It was **NOTED** that Ditton Minors will carry out arrangements as per last year's agreement with overnight security of the site and increased car park marshals over the weekend.

52. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) NRRG Boundary fence – Resident enquiry regarding improvements to privacy.

It was **NOTED** that quotes are in progress to look at options to close the gap for security purposes.

RESOLVED to present suggestions to Resident on receipt of quotes for the works and further discuss at next meeting.

(b) Bradbourne Lane Trees

Resident had concerns regarding height of new growth of trees within the conservation area as they are beginning to lean on the telephone cables.

RESOLVED to further speak to grounds team to find a solution to resolve this for the summer with a view to further address this within the winter tree program.

(c) Magazine's for noting – Allotment & Leisure Gardener (NAS)

53. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Chairman
1st June 2026

