

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **19TH MAY 2025**

PRESENT: CLLRS J COX, MRS L COX, MRS A THROSSELL, MRS K NASH, MRS M NEWMAN and A MULCUCK
MRS N GREENAWAY (CLERK OF THE COUNCIL)
MRS L FITCHETT (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

31. **OPENING OF MEETING**

In the absence of the CHAIR, it was agreed Cllr Mrs Newman remain in the Chair to open this meeting. The meeting was opened at 7.55pm.

32. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Waters, Adlington and Newman. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** and recorded in the absence book Ref. 581.

33. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

34. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr Cox was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Mulcuck and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Cox. There being no further nominations, Cllr Cox was duly elected Vice-Chair of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee for 2025/26. It was agreed Cllr Cox should take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

35. **FINANCE**

It was **NOTED** no financial analysis was available.

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

(a) Machinery Report (update if available) [Page 199 item 475(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the report has been finished. The completed report was **CIRCULATED** and the contents **NOTED**.

RESOLVED to accept and approve the report and that future reviews should take place when required for budget setting.

37. **TREES & PLANTING**

(a) Tree works quote received for winter 25/26 works

The Admin Assistant advised that a quote to continue the program of tree works for winter 2025/26 had been obtained for £7005.00 plus VAT. It was acknowledged this was a favourable quote to undertake a great deal of much needed work including on the village green

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Tree Monkeys, subject to there being sufficient budget. If insufficient budget, the matter be taken to full council to consider the balance being paid from reserves.

(b) Update on planting and pitch reseeding

The Admin Assistant gave an update regarding the reseeding of the pitches. It was **NOTED** that the germination had been going well but some had been lost due to the public accessing the protected area. Progress of the positioning of the Twinning flower bed stone and planting details were also **NOTED**.

38. **ALLOTMENTS**

(a) Update regarding waiting list and local water charges [page 200, item 477 (a)]

The Admin Assistant updated the Committee on the current waiting list and feedback received from those on the list. She also reported back on information requested at the previous meeting regarding rates set out by other local parish councils for their allotments and their provision of utilities and charging, with a view to measuring the impact of increased costs imposed by the recent water bill increases.

RESOLVED to defer until the first months charges have been calculated.

It was also **NOTED** that there is a toilet facility in the DATs building but it is believed this is a compost toilet but confirmation will be sort.

(b) Magazine for noting

The Allotment & Leisure Gardener Magazine was **CIRCULATED** and **NOTED**.

39. **QUARRY**

(a) Safety warning signs in addition to Tarmac access permissions notice

Further to last month's agreement to proceed with the requested 'Permissive Footpath' notice requested by Tarmac's land agent, the recent quarry walk had raised that it might be pertinent to also provide a warning sign with regard to uneven surfaces as this is a 'Local Nature Reserve'. A discussion took place regarding the proposed wording and it was felt that this was quite lengthy which would result in visitors disregarding it. It was suggested a one line message such as 'Uneven Surfaces – Trip Hazard' would be adequate.

RESOLVED to research more concise wording for a sign and bring to the next meeting,

(b) Email received requesting steps to be added to a slope within the LNR/Quarry site

A resident had contacted the Clerk regarding a steep slope in the back of the Quarry along the pond fence requesting that stepping be added to improve the safety of the

slope. Cllr Mulcuck stated that he would like to visit the area to view the slope. Cllr Cox suggested that the Grounds Team provide photos.

RESOLVED to collate more information on the condition of the path in this area and refer back at next meeting.

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

It was **NOTED** that this is under review pending further research by the Council Chairman with regard to other council's draft strategies.

41. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chairman
2nd June 2025

