

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **21st JULY 2025**

PRESENT: CLLRS A WATERS (CHAIR), J COX (VICE CHAIR) MR N NEWMAN, D ADDLINGTON, MRS L COX, MRS A THROSSELL, MRS M NEWMAN and A MULCUCK
MRS N GREENAWAY (CLERK OF THE COUNCIL)
MRS L FITCHETT (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

136. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.41pm.

137. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs K Nash. The previously notified reason for absence was recorded in the absence book Ref. 587 and accepted and approved.

138. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

139. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial analysis – Month 2/3.

READ and **NOTED**. Water bills and the increased charges were **NOTED**.

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

(a) Ideas regarding future of footpath fence and entrance hedging to Quarry [page 35 item 82a]

RESOLVED to make repairs and replace with new fencing to include a “staggered” entrance in first instance at approx. cost of £1000. If unsuccessful in deterring bikes then to proceed with a more bespoke gate at larger expense if required.

141. **TREES & PLANTING**

(a) Community Centre – Flower beds update

It was **NOTED** that the twinning committee would be officially recognising the twinning bed on 31/7 when an anniversary plaque will be unveiled in the presence of the committee and KCC Cllr Andrew Kennedy.

RESOLVED that the grounds staff would tend to this bed prior to the photographs taking place.

It was also advised that the 4th bed will be turfed over in the autumn as per June's meeting decision item 6A (iii).

(b) Tree survey planned and tree identity discs requested

It was **NOTED** that the tree survey will commence on 23/7. A request had been made by Cllr Waters to purchase tree identification tags numbered 1001-. It was agreed to order these.

(c) Woodland Trust tree orders

It was **NOTED** that the deadline for The Woodland trust tree scheme was soon. Discussion took place regarding achieving the most success with the small saplings. Either ordering biodegradable plant guards or first growing in protective pots, to ensure they are not trampled on as previous saplings have been lost due to this.

RESOLVED to obtain pots and grown in a protected area until autumn 2026.

142. **ALLOTMENTS**

Update

It was **NOTED** that all plots are now taken and there are 7 on the waiting list. It was also **NOTED** that following the previous inspection 9/6/25 some plots were identified as in need of monitoring. These plots continued to show a lack of activity in the weeks following therefore have been contacted regarding their intentions.

It was also **NOTED** that all tenants had been contacted regarding the importance of having Public Liability Insurance and while most had taken this via DATs membership, some had arranged their own.

143. **QUARRY**

New warning sign proposal

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Waters wished to share an example picting a sign from another conservation area. It was **NOTED** that the wording regarding 'Dogs on leads' is not acceptable and to replace it with 'dogs under control'.

RESOLVED to go head with a new sigh, upon investigating the use of the wording regarding liability with current bye-laws and insurance provider.

144. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) For Decision

(i) Ditton Minors request to provide improvements to the NRRG changing area.

It was **NOTED** that Ditton Minors have requested permission to make improvements to the area surrounding the changing rooms at the NRRG. They wish to erect a new picket fence and gate in order that they may make a safe secure environment to this area at their expense. This proposal will prevent accidental falls and provide a secure designated area for their equipment.

RESOLVED to approve this request.

- (ii) Ditton Minors request to set up the tournament overnight on Friday before event with security to oversee equipment.

It was **NOTED** that Ditton Minors have requested to set up next year's tournament on the Friday evening in order to avoid Saturday morning set up delays. Security would be provided. It was clarified if the hall were to be in use this would not have an effect.

RESOLVED to approve this request.

- (b) For Noting

- (i) Newsletter - Making Space for Nature

Kent consultation report provided by Cllr Waters was **NOTED**.

145. **PLAYGROUNDS**

- (a) Update on repairs

It was **NOTED** that recent playground surface repairs had been concluded.

- (b) Resident request for shade to be provided in playground now that tree has been removed

It was **NOTED** that an email had been received from a resident requesting shade provision to be provided after the removal of the Pear Tree due to the above repairs recently.

RESOLVED to monitor for the rest of the summer with a view to consider again should any further requests be received.

146. **RECREATION GROUND PITCH HIRE FEE'S – PROPOSED INCREASE**

It was **NOTED** that a proposed increase of 5% had been suggested in line with other recent increases. A request was made for a range of increases to be presented.

RESOLVED to email Councillors with full details of financial increments for agreement.

147. **URGENT ITEM**

It was **NOTED** that a request had been received from the Pre-School requesting to replace the picket fence at their expense with a higher fence to improve security for the children.

RESOLVED to approve this request.

148. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Chairman
11th August 2025