

## DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J THWAITES (Vice-Chair), MRS A THROSSELL, MRS J DEARDEN, MRS K DENNISON, A MULCUCK, M PORTER & J LOVER [as observer]  
MR N SAUNDERS (Grounds Supervisor)  
MRS N GREENAWAY (Clerk of the Council)  
MRS G JEFFS (Administrative Assistant)

429. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chair at 7.42pm.

430. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

431. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs J Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 435 as her husband retains an allotment. Cllr Mulcuck and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in 438(a) as they are both members of the bowls club.

432. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis Month 9**

The previously **CIRCULATED** financial analysis was **READ** and **NOTED**.

(b) **Replacement Gang Mower**

It was **NOTED** after further investigation that a "Snake" might not be a suitable replacement and new "Gangs" would be a better option. This option is also better value and could allow a Wood Chipper to be purchased still with in the budget allowed for new equipment in the new financial year. The Grounds Supervisor will bring prices to the next meeting in March.

(c) **Woodchipper**

The Grounds Supervisor will provide an update along with prices at the next meeting in March.

It was reported that the workshop had damage to its roof, it appears someone had stood on the roof and a large hole appeared. Nothing had been taken and no alarm went off. However an emergency repair was needed to prevent weather damage to equipment.

**RESOLVED** to delegate power to the Clerk to authorise the repair within a reasonable cost.

433. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**(a) Footpath Protection (Open Spaces Society) Updates [if available](i) Quarry Circular Footpath (Nov 2017, Page 138, Item 337(a)(i))(ii) Golding Close/Woodlands Road (Nov 2018, Page 138, Item 337(a)(ii)(iii)) Medina  
Road/Nursery Road (Nov 2018, Page 138, Item 337(a)(iii))

It was **NOTED** that residents were still collecting questionnaires and it was agreed this should continue for a little longer as there is still public interest in this matter.

(b) Village Sign Refurbishment

It was **NOTED** that the village Sign has been placed back up and all agreed the sign looked very good and had been restored beautifully.

434. **RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS**(a) Ditton Minors 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018

It was **REPORTED** that the Clerk and Admin Assistant had attended a meeting with Ditton Minors and the event is being well organised, a mini fun fair and stall holders have been invited to attend. It is also planned to have an arena with local communities and shows to demonstrate in. It was **NOTED** they would like to have a “Hog Roast” at the event.

**RESOLVED** to give permission for a hog roast at this event as long as it is fully supervised and insured.

Further updates will be given when further information comes through.

(b) Multi Sports Change of Surface – [Info from Ditton Minors – Playfiveaside]

It was **REPORTED** there was a previous concern with the rubber as to its content. Also the contract with this company appears to have sole use over the use at peak times.. It was **NOTED** that this would not work for us as currently have regular hirers on the court. Cllrs Mrs Dennison and Mrs Dearden offered to carry out further research into the safety of the rubber content and report at the next meeting.

435. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

It was **REPORTED** a new shelter had been erected and installation went smoothly.

436. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**(a) Updated Management Plan

It was **NOTED** that a new management plan had been prepared by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the new management Plan.

Cllrs Mrs Dennison and Mrs Dearden asked if they could have a copy of the plan.

437. **TREES**

The Grounds Supervisor **REPORTED** that he would shortly undertake the Winter Tree Survey and report his findings.

It was **NOTED** the trees in Ragstone Court requiring additional work will be taken care of in the Autumn.

438. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION – GENERAL**(a) **Bowls Club Request for meeting re track**

It was **REPORTED** the Bowls Club have requested a meeting regarding funding for a new barrier as they have stated not all their members have keys and its inconvenient for a bowls club member to wait for peoples arrival and departure on the Bingo evening. It was **NOTED** this item had not been put through in the new year's budget as it was not considered essential as the Parish Council does have security barriers in place.

**RESOLVED** not to agree to a meeting at the moment as the Parish Council does not have the budget to place a high barrier style gate in place of the current gate.

(b) **Kent Tree & Pond Warden Scheme**

It was **NOTED** a training day is being offered. The Grounds Supervisor expressed an interest in attending.

Cllr Mulcuck **REPORTED** that he and Cllr Mrs Dennison attended the recent Parish Partnership Panel meeting and an update on the Public Space Protection Orders had been given but it appeared this mainly affects Tonbridge and Malling owned land currently.

439. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The correspondence was **READ** and **NOTED**.

It was **NOTED** the resident that had previously sent in correspondence regarding fencing in the conservation area to keep badgers off his lawn had contacted the Parish Office as he had not received a reply. It was **NOTED** there is no budget for this fencing to be replaced. The Grounds Supervisor will look into repairing the holes in the fence. It was further **NOTED** that little more can be done as badgers are protected.

440. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

