

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS K DENNISON (CHAIR), MRS J DEARDEN, A MULCUCK, MRS A THROSSELL, MRS G GODDEN, & N NEWMAN
MRS GEMMA JEFFS [ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT]

229. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.09pm.

230. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

231. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Godden declared a personal interest in item 236(a) resident complaint as it refers to an area to the rear of her property.

232. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis Month 6

It was **NOTED** the financial analysis was behind and Month 6 is September. The Finance committee need to be aware that as it's month 6 further tree works will be coming out of this year's budget.

A discussion took place regarding November's Agenda usually being of budgetary nature. It was **NOTED** that Councillors would prefer a meeting to discuss in full.

233. **RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS**

(a) Replacement noticeboard's Bell Lane & Nursey Road (by papas).

Pictures were shown of replacement noticeboards and refurbished youth shelter. It was **NOTED** that thanks should be given to Groundsman, Brad Rose, for carrying out this work.

(b) Request for 4 teams to use the Quarry pitch

A request was **READ** for an additional team to use the quarry pitch. This would be 4 teams on one pitch.

REOLVED To refuse this request on the basis this will be too many teams on this pitch which would create additional wear and tear. A previous request was turned down last year for this reason.

234. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Allotment Rents – Update

It was **NOTED** that all rents are coming in and will hopefully be complete in January.

(b) Update – Meeting with DATS

It was **NOTED** a meeting with DATS had taken place and the Admin Assistant relayed points raised from this meeting. It was **REQUESTED** the Admin Assistant make enquiries regarding non DATS members using the toilet. It was felt that non DATS members should not be excluded.

RESOLVED Admin Assistant to make enquiries and report back.

235. **QUARRY LNR MATTERS**(a) Quarry Walkround

Cllr Dennison **READ** the notes from the very successful quarry walk round. A large amount of work has been highlighted. Some of this work can be undertaken by the grounds team. Work requested which has been RED lighted which means 'Urgent and immediate' is as follows:

Bee Cliff - clearance of accessible buddleia
 Lower Meadow –Remove scrub encroachment
 Little Valley – Remove accessible dogwood
 Boundary/DPC/Tarmac – Remove accessible Scrub
 Ragwort to be removed July/August

Other work has been suggested to top up steps and very water logged paths with additional type 1 stone. Other work will be put into the proposed budget for next year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED The Admin Assistant is to contact Hadlow College to see if their students would like to conduct some research/surveys.

236. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**(a) Resident complaint – Access via Bowls Cub car park.

A complaint was **NOTED** regarding a blocked access into the quarry from corner of the bowls club car park at the rear of Ragstone Court. It was **NOTED** that youths may be responsible for the blockade. It was further **NOTED** that this is Parish Council land and there should not be any right of access, this should be blocked up to stop youths from gathering, littering and making noise directly behind the resident's houses. A temporary fix to the chain link fence should be made and the barricade's will be taken away along with the damaged chestnut/wooden fence which has collapsed. Cllr Throssell Proposed and Cllr Newman Seconded the above action be taken. All member's were in agreement.

REOLVED The Admin Assistant to request a quote for a lockable gate. **RED** light work on barricades' to be removed and repairs to the chain link to be undertaken by the Grounds team.

(b) Resident complaint – Trees in the Quarry/Ragstone area

It was **NOTED** a complaint regarding trees in the above mentioned area was **READ**. The Admin Assistant explained that an extra tree survey had taken place, and found that all or most of the trees in question are healthy and light pollution seems to be the only issue. It was **AGREED** that the Grounds team would go and clear all ground debris and smaller thin self seeded trees.

RESOLVED Grounds team to **RED** light the work above.

It **REQUESTED** that the Traffic Light System and the Grounds Work Schedule is sent out to Councillors and work be discussed at the monthly meetings.

237. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION - GENERAL**

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CIRCULATED, READ & NOTED

238. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed 8.46pm.

Chairman
6th December 2021

