

**DITTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

PRESENT:    CLLRS MRS A THROSSELL [VICE-CHAIR], A MULCUCK, N NEWMAN &  
                  MRS J DEARDEN  
                  MRS N GREENAWAY [CLERK TO THE COUNCIL]  
                  MRS G JEFFS [AMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT]

119.    **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chair at 7.57pm.

120.    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Godden. The previously notified reasons for absence were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** and recorded in the absence book Ref: 499

121.    **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs Dearden declared a personal interest in item 5a Memorial Tree & bench location. Cllr Mulcuck declared a personal interest in item 5c as the noticeboard would be close to his property.

\*\*\*\*\*ADJOURNMENT\*\*\*\*\*

The Secretary and Treasurer from Ditton Allotment Tenant Association [DATs] were in attendance to get a feel for how the Open Spaces & Amenities Committee works and to raise some issues affecting the allotments. They asked why the rubbish bin had been removed. They also asked about other proposed changes that they had heard about but not received any official notice of. The Clerk apologised if information had not been correctly relayed but re-iterated that all correspondence about any issues/changes at the allotments should be via the parish office to avoid any further confusion. They also expressed concern about the padlock being broken and suggested a keysafe as an alternative. They were advised that the padlock would be investigated and resolves as soon as possible. It was also noted that the top barrier had been left open following an event on the field at the weekend.

The DATs members were thanked for attending and bringing their concerns to the council and advised that all matters would be dealt with and the appropriate response given as soon as it was available. They were advised that they were welcoming to stay for the remainder of the meeting [apart from the closed] session.

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122.    **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis Month 2

**CIRCULATED, READ & NOTED**

Cllr Mulcuck asked if the rising costs of electricity and water have been budgeted for. Cllr Newman said that the budget was increased but no one expected the costs to increase as much as they had.

123. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

(a) Memorial Bench & Tree location

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that a meeting with Cllr Dearden had taken place and location was **AGREED** for the memorial bench (under the trees alongside the track on the Kilnbarn recreational grounds) and either the old recreational ground or a new location on the perimeter of Scott close and the car park was **AGREED** for the tree to be planted

**RESOLVED** to agree to the bench and tree to be placed in the agreed locations.

(b) Noticeboard outside School – Repair not possible request for replacement

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** the noticeboard was unrepairable. It was **AGREED** that a new noticeboard will be purchased and will be installed. Sizes would need to be checked as a larger noticeboard may need to be purchased as existing posts are able to be re- used.

**RESOLVED** to purchase a new noticeboard for this location.

(c) Bradbourne Lane Noticeboard –Update

The Administrative Assistant **REPORTED** that information from residents and landowner information was received and confirmed. It was **AGREED** a site meeting would take place with Cllr Mulcuck for the installation of the noticeboard.

124. **RECREATION GROUNDS MATTERS**

(a) Day tree fellers quotation – work to be carried out in the Autumn

A quote was **READ** for tree works to be carried out at the old recreation ground. A very large Field Maple which has become too tall and a group of at least 5 hazels have become overgrown will need to be felled.

**RESOLVED** To accept the quotation and schedule work in for the Autumn.

(b) Remove box hedges car park / Scott Close

It was **REPORTED** that the hedges on the perimeter of the car park & Scott Close have become over- grown and as the hedges have got so large, only the outside leaves are living and the insides are brown and dead. It was **AGREED** that half of the hedges would be removed this Autumn and the remaining hedges would be removed the following Autumn. It was **REPORTED** that there are a number of old tree stumps that need to be removed. It was **AGREED** that from our tool hire budget we would hire a stump grinder too remove these in the winter months to make way for replanting with drought tolerant plants and slower growing trees.

125. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Removal of rubbish bin

It was **NOTED** that the bin had been removed after it had been previously reported that it was being used for empty beer cans and personal refuse that should be taken home. It was further noted that the DATs members were concerned that the removal of the bin had not been communicated to the allotment tenants. It was agreed to replace the bin but the contents would be monitored and the provision of this bin reviewed at the next meeting.

(b) Allotment Inspection Update

Cllr Throssell read the allotment inspection notes. It was **AGREED** that a further letter is to be sent to plot 23b ( final letter) and it was **REPORTED** 10a required a letter as this plot has not been worked since it was let in May 2022. The next inspection is booked for 26.08.2022 at 2pm. Cllr Godden asked for some points to be raised and these were also read by Cllr Throssell. She asked that reminders of the 5mph speed limit are sent to the bowls club and allotment holders as reports had been received of vehicles going faster than 5mph on the top track along with a reminder to all that the top track gate must be locked.

**RESOLVED** The Administrative Assistant will contact the bowls club & allotment holders by email to gently remind them of the speed limit and locking and unlocking for the top track gate.

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Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and standing Orders 27 & 50 the Chairman to move that due to the confidential nature of the next item the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.  
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126. **MUGA – REFURBISHMENT**(a) Update if available

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had asked DMFC for more information about the management of the facility should the council agree to the proposal but a response had not yet been received. It was reported that information had been obtained from a neighbouring parish that had entered into an agreement with their local football club for a 3G pitch with funding from the Football Foundation but unfortunately a solicitor had picked up that the parish council would be liable for future costs. It was agreed more information should be sought about the source of funding and liability for future maintenance.

**RESOLVED** to ask Ditton Minors for information about the provider of the funding and ask to see a copy of the grant application form.

127. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted none received.

128. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Chairman  
1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

