

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **19th JANUARY 2026**

PRESENT: CLLRS A WATERS (CHAIR), J COX (VICE CHAIR) N NEWMAN, D ADLINGTON, MRS M NEWMAN, MRS L COX, MRS A THROSSELL, A MULCUCK
MRS L FITCHETT (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

367. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.38pm.

368. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

369. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

370. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial analysis – Month 9

READ and **NOTED**

371. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD**

(a) Conifers on border of NRRG (page 115 item 291a)

It was **NOTED** that the response previously requested from the insurance company was that a claim would not be covered and approaching a third party would be protracted and most probably unsuccessful.

RESOLVED to contact the resident in writing to get their thoughts and come to some arrangement regarding the responsibilities in relation to completing the repairs.

(b) Dead Sycamore tree removal update (page 116 item 291b)

NOTED – This fence work has now been completed by the owner.

372. **TREES & PLANTING**

(a) Winter Tree works completed and next Bare Leaf Tree Survey

It was **NOTED** that the tree survey will begin 26th January subject to weather and the trees will be relabelled with new tree discs. It was **NOTED** that there are some knowledge/training needs. Information was shared by the Admin Assistant regarding carrying out an external professional tree survey next time and shared the HSE legislation and HSE facts regarding public land and trees.

RESOLVED – to obtain a quote and present to F&A as a training matter and costs associated with this.

(b) Woodland Trees bordering Ragstone Court and London Plane

It was **NOTED** that the recent tree surgery work had provided information regarding the London Plain species of tree and recommended potential removal before it regrows to previous height. It was **NOTED** that a quote was shared for the removal of a plum tree that also borders this area.

RESOLVED to defer until budgets allow.

372. **ALLOTMENTS**

Waiting list update

It was **NOTED** that the current available plot will be leased by the end of January and that the request to split a plot by a former plot holder has resulted in a successful let.

373. **QUARRY**

(a) Bike damage to Quarry and Football Pitches

Photos of recent bike damage to both the quarry and the NRRG Pitches were shared. It was **NOTED** that it might require specific anti-bike entry gates which could be more restrictive for other users. As much of this damage was considered repairable it was **RESOLVED** to review further should there be significant damage in the future.

(b) Signage update

NOTED that the new sign has been displayed at the Quarry Entrance.

(c) Wild Flower Meadow for Spring

A response was shared from the Grounds Supervisor as previously requested regarding the practicalities of delivering a Wild Flower Meadow, with current resources. It was **NOTED** that Ragwort is still an issue and that equipment would need to be hired. Discussion took place regarding the mowing, boxing off/stringing net over the newly seeded area and bird protection. Cllr Mulcuck suggested seeking a grant or making a request to Gallagher's to assist.

RESOLVED for the Chairman to discuss the feasibility of this project with the Grounds Supervisor.

374. **PLAYGROUNDS**

MUGA Surface Work

It was **NOTED** that the scheduled fungicide treatment by Trevor May has been delayed due to weather and is expected in the next week or so. Cllr Adlington asked for clarification regarding if this should be expected to be an annual expense.

RESOLVED to follow up when team arrive to carry out the treatment.

375. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Update regarding request to use Centre for Larkfield 10K (page 117 item 296 ii)

It was **NOTED** that several dates had been shared with the enquirer but unfortunately the centre did not have the availability to be able to meet the requirements on those dates. Therefore, the enquirer is currently seeking alternative arrangements elsewhere.

Magazine's for noting – ARBOR KFOT

376. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Chairman
2nd February 2026

