

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **15th JUNE 2026**

PRESENT: CLLRS J COX (CHAIR), MRS L COX (VICECHAIR) N NEWMAN,  
MRS A THROSSELL, MRS M NEWMAN  
MRS N GREENAWAY (CLERK)  
MRS L FITCHETT (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

76. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.32pm.

77. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Waters, D Adlington. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book Ref. 615 and accepted and approved.

78. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

79. **FINANCE**

(a) Kubota Repairs update

It was **NOTED** that on carrying out the repair to the cutting deck that further parts needed replacing and were no longer available and no other Kubota decks fit the model held due to age. It was **NOTED** that the estimated current value of the Kubota Tractor was in the region of £6000. Options were discussed re trading in as part exchange for a new tractor or buying second hand. The Clerk reported DPC has had this mini tractor for 12 years prior to this it had a ride on mower which cost £9000 new then. A dedicated mower alone would cost in the region of £4500. The current Kubota if kept without a cutting deck would only be used for pulling the bowser for watering. Cllr Cox suggested looking for a decent second hand mower. The biggest impact of no deck will be felt with the schools contract this would increase time carried out from scheduled 2 hours per week to up to a possible 6 hours. The Clerk suggested looking at this further at the next F&A meeting. If quotes not available before then, defer to next OSA in July.

(b) Review pitch fees for 2026/27 Season.

It was **NOTED** that current average increase at the centre will be at 4%.

**RESOLVED** to increase pitch fees for Youth hire to £300 and Adults £600pa.

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

NRRG Boundary fence – Resident enquiry regarding improvements to privacy (page 19 item 52a).

It was **NOTED** that historically this issue has been reported by both boundary neighbours on separate occasions over a protracted period of time. A letter had been delivered to the most recent resident to suggest a possible solution. The resident has declined the solution offered and requested an alternative. The options available were discussed around wooden fencing/weld mesh options and costs and the advice given by a contractor regarding the constraints/costs of using chain-link fencing as requested.

**RESOLVED** to advise resident in writing that a solution of weld mesh was the council's final offer regarding making good the repair at the councils cost.

81. **ALLOTMENTS**

Update – Since inspection and waiting list update.

It was **NOTED** by Cllr Cox, that the recent inspection was the first to be carried out by Vice Chair Cllr Mrs Cox and her feedback was given as someone with fresh eyes. The admin assistant updated the committee on the current situation since the last inspection and the waiting list. It was **NOTED** that the Scouts are the next on the list. Cllr Mrs Throssell, asked that the lead named tenant be a Ditton resident.

82. **PLAYGROUNDS**

Update from Playground Inspection Training.

It was **NOTED** that both the admin assistant and the newest member of the grounds team attended a playground safety course. The learnings were shared with the committee. It was **NOTED** that the inspection form and regularity needed updating and that either further training should be carried out to reach RPII level 2 and internally carry out additional quarterly inspections or outsource to a contractual agreement that can offer an additional repair service.

**RESOLVED** to investigate options further and obtain quotes for both additional training and contracts. In addition Cllr Cox asked if the grounds team have SHARPS training. It was **NOTED** that they do not collect any rubbish by hand as will always use gloves and a litter picker.

**RESOLVED** that this would be looked into by Personnel Committee.

83. **DITTON MINORS TOURNAMENT JUNE 2026**

Update on event.

The admin assistant advised that they had not received any direct feedback due to the event. Registration had been made available from 0745. No parking signs were put up in order to prevent parking on nearby residential streets. The parking was marshalled by the Rotary Club. It was **NOTED** that a build-up had been witnessed at the registration time and Ditton Minors had confirmed that they had adjusted the flow of traffic onto the field to deal with peaks and troughs in the flow of traffic during the day. It was also **NOTED** that Ditton Minors had provided a brief impact statement of the event and their hired overnight security had warned off 3 attempts by motor cyclists

using the pitches and the Quarry. On the Sunday motorcyclists had tried to disrupt the event and were escorted out via the security and the TMBC Safer Neighbourhood team this was reported to the Police. The Clerk reported that contrary to a longstanding written agreement not to charge for parking on council premises, a minimum donation was charged on entry as the programme has now moved online. This is a change from previous years whereby the charge was for the programme and the office had not been given advance notice of this change to practice.

**RESOLVED** to send a letter confirming that parking should not be charged for at future events.

84. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Request from local nursery to use NRRG for Sports Day.

**RESOLVED** to give permission subject to the following:

Nursery to use their own public liability policy; to leave the Rec in the manner it is found, i.e. all rubbish removed and to encourage considerate parking if parents are driving to the site.

(b) Resident concerns regarding Ivy growth at property.

Photos of the ivy were shared and it was **NOTED** that the ivy concerned appeared to have grown over some considerable time/years and that the ivy on the DPC side of the boundary has been kept under control. In particular for the last year, since a concern was raised last summer. Discussion took place regarding possible ownership of the fence and photos of the property were available online confirming that the ivy was in existence many years ago prior to residents purchase.

**RESOLVED** to write to resident advising that ivy on his property is his responsibility to deal with.

(c) Open Spaces Society AGM meeting invite.

**READ and NOTED**

(d) Magazine's for noting – Arbor - Kent Friends of the Trees.

**READ and NOTED**

85. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

