

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **20th JULY 2026**

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

140. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.42pm.

141. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs A Throssell. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book Ref. 619 and accepted and approved.

142. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

143. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial Analysis - Month 3

READ AND NOTED

(b) Repair costs –Machinery completed and new bollard damage

It was **NOTED** that recent repairs had included service and repair to 2 hedge trimmers and that the outstanding invoice for the Kubota service and repair had not been finalised due to the deck being unrepairable.

It was **NOTED** the bollard outside the yard has been driven into again after replacing it just recently. A quote of £760 has been provided to replace this with a removable post. Discussion took place around suggestions of luminous colouring and motion sensor lighting as you enter the track. It was **NOTED** that residential properties border this track and it would not be possible to light up the end of their gardens unconditionally therefore making this not feasible. The quote had also recommended placing speed bumps on the track. It was suggested a sign be put up to alert to 'uneven ground' **RESOLVED** to approve this cost to replace with removable post if required.

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

(a) Update on works schedule for conifers on border of NRRG path repair (page 17 item 43b)

It was **NOTED** that works are booked and due to commence in September to avoid disruption during the summer holidays.

- (b) NRRG Boundary fence – Follow up to Resident response regarding improvements to privacy solution offered (page 35 item 80)

It was **NOTED** that the resident had agreed to the Weld Mesh fencing proposal. It was also **NOTED** that resident had presented photos to the office requesting removal of a post in the vicinity of his garden.

RESOLVED to advise that this post is not on DPC land nor is there evidence to confirm that the post belongs to DPC. Therefore, as the owner of the land the resident would be responsible for its removal.

145. **TREE'S AND PLANTING**

- (a) Full leaf Survey carried out – initial draft update on work to be considered

The Admin Assistant relayed findings of recent full leaf tree survey and quotes received for potential work required. Discussion took place regarding the trees on the village green and a few branches nearing St Peters Court. Cllr Waters confirmed that a further inspection would be required once the tree is in bare leaf to decide future action if any required. He also confirmed that a recent memorial tree planted on the village green is not in an appropriate position, he recommends that it be moved as it's been positioned near a vastly taller tree and the tree canopy is preventing light and moisture reaching the new tree and it is not flourishing. It was **NOTED** that a quote of £250 had been received to trim back the tree's bordering the conservation area along the Ransom strip. It was also **NOTED** that an estimated quote had been received from a recommended Arborist for an external bare leaf tree survey. This would be in the region of £495 per acre.

RESOLVED to contact owner of memorial tree and move to a more suitable position and to approve works required on Ransom strip. Further quotes to be sought regarding an external tree survey as the price quoted is not a viable option.

146. **ALLOTMENTS**

- Update – Waiting list update/size consideration of available plots

Discussion took place regarding the next date for an allotment review. The Admin Assistant relayed a request to look at size of plots in future as they become available as some tenants may be struggling with the full size or another plot holder taking on additional part of a plot should anyone wish to reduce their own plot size. It was **NOTED** that the current waiting list is only 3, with others that have asked to be put to the bottom of the list as unable to take up at the time of offer. Cllr Newman suggested putting an advert onto the Facebook page to increase the waiting list.

RESOLVED to carry out an inspection in next 2 weeks. Then consider size options depending on responses received and then advertise if required.

147. **QUARRY/VILLAGE GREEN/CONSERVATION AREA**

- Bike Prevention Gates further information

A communication was **READ** from KCC regarding the viability of barriers on footpaths and alleyways versus the requirement to provide adequate access for disabled persons and other users under the Equalities Act. It stated that Installation is

considered very expensive with no guarantee of prevention merely slowing bikes down. The Admin Assistant shared the quotes so far received from £572 for an A Frame to £1500 for a K barrier.

RESOLVED for Chair and Vice Chair to check how many access points there are to site and report back findings and continue to get 3 quotes in total.

Cllr Adlington also raised about the maintenance of the steps in the quarry as he believes that they are lifting and the metal exposed.

RESOLVED to get the grounds team to look into this as it is routinely checked and repair if necessary.

148. **PLAYGROUNDS**

Update on inspection quotes for future review

It was **NOTED** that 2 quotes have been received providing differing levels of inspection RPII x3 annual and RPIII X 1 and/or a repair services, these were shared. Cllrs suggested enquiring as to who other local councils use and TMBC. Staff on site are qualified to RPII standard but not skilled in the specialist repairs often needed.

RESOLVED to continue enquiries over the summer.

149. **MUGA AND OUTSIDE SPACE HIRE**

(a) Review pitch marking fees

The Admin Assistant advised that white marking paint has increased in cost by £1 a bag since March which represents 6.5%.

RESOLVED to increase marking out fee by this amount to £28.75 from £27.00 + vat.

150. **REPAIRS**

Update on current machinery repairs inc bowser

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Waters had provided his assistance to the grounds team in order to fix/make improvements to the battery life of some machinery used in the yard. An optimate charger was fitted this then recovered the battery power of some of tools used therefore prolonging the battery life for the future. Cllr J Cox thanked Cllr Waters for volunteering his time as it was very helpful.

It was **NOTED** that quotes received for a replacement deck range from £2.2k to £6.5K. Discussion took place regarding the merits of replacing vs purchasing a brand new one and what the cost would be.

RESOLVED to look further at the comparison and suitable options.

151. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Magazine's for noting – Open Space Society.

152. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman
3rd August 2026