

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday, 16th December 2014 at 8pm.

Present Mrs M. Bolton in the Chair, Mrs N. Banfield, Dr V. Ingham, Mrs C.M. Robinson, A.T. Jones, M. Madden, P.M. Smith and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies D. McBeth

173. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th November having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and adopted by the Council.
174. Minute 143 Neighbourhood Plan They were looking at SHAR sites, they would be using the National Park criteria as well as the local criteria regarding any sites. People will be invited to put forward any possible sites for consideration.
175. Minute 144 suggested additional Car Park in Keymer Road The Group had discussed the documents received from the District Solicitor who recommended that the Council should try to purchase the land unless it was required in the short term only. It was agreed that the group should meet with the owner and discuss the points various points, unfortunately she was not available before 19th to have a meeting. It was agreed to wait till after the next meeting on 13th January.
176. Minute 145 Tree planting to commemorate First World War No fresh information.
177. Minute 147 Replacement of fence on both sides of the Burial Ground entrance from Lewes Road. A further firm had been approached but they only provide materials, The firm produced some names of people who could do the work, their credentials are being checked.
178. Minute 148 Proposed changes to rural bus services It was noted that although the E.S.C.C. had agreed to drop the changes, the Cabinet had agreed that they should stand.
179. Minute 149 Sport England Grant for draining the Football pitch Although the weather had improved, the contractors responded that "We would need a number of weeks of dry weather in order for the pitch to dry out sufficiently to reduce the risk of causing compaction and smear" They had been on site to inspect recently.
180. Minute 150 Defibrillators. The Lions Club have agreed to finance 50% of the cost and supply the machine. They would like a meeting to agree the position on the Village Hall as they need an electricity supply. It was agreed to give them Phil Smith's email address as Chairman of the trustees.
181. Minute 151 Speeding It was noted that there was no further information to date.
182. Minute 152 Bus shelter at St Georges Retreat It was noted that there was no response received to date.
183. Minute 159 Dog Bin by Pond E.S.C.C. had responded "I have inspected this area and although it is muddy and looks untidy there were no safety defects found. The verge at this location is frequently driven on which it causing it to become muddy and I feel that reinstating the verge would be a waste of money because it would just get driven over again. I would advise contacting Lewes District council regarding the possibility of moving the bin to somewhere more suitable". It was agreed to take no action.
184. Minute 160.1 It had been suggested that the Strengthening Local Relationships should be reinstated, this was not accepted but it was agreed to invite a representative from E.S.C.C. Highways to a meeting in the New Year to discuss matters.
185. Minute 160.2 Recruiting new Councillors. It was agreed to have some form of publicity drive to raise awareness ready for the elections in May 2015
186. SDNP/14/05320/HOUS Location: Aspin, Farm Lane
Type: Householder
Applicant: Mr G Hemsley
Proposal: Single storey extension
No comment.
187. SNDP/14/05103/FUL Location: Land East of Allotment Gardens, North End
Applicant: Mrs R Cager

Proposal: Proposed wildlife pond

It was agreed to support the application as it is in keeping with the criteria of the South Downs National Park.

188. LW/14/0834
Address Rainlea, Janes Lane Wivelsfield East Sussex RH15 0SH
Proposal Two storey extension to side and rear
No comment
189. SDNP/14/06128/FUL & SDNP/14/06129/LIS 26 West Street
Applicant: Mr G Palmer
Proposal: Erection of a first floor extension, removal of chimney and internal alterations
No comment.
190. LW/14/0904 Unit 2 The Old Grain Store Ditchling Common Industrial Estate Folders Lane
Planning Application - Insertion of new windows in the south and east elevation at second floor for Filton Process Control Engineering
No comment.
191. Finance matters
a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance. This was laid on the table having been scrutinised by the Financial controller.

b) Accounts for payment. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting, the invoices having been scrutinised by the Financial controller, were approved for payment and the cheques signed by A.T. Jones to be countersigned by D. McBeth at a later date.

c) New Bank Mandate It was noted that confirmation of the new signatories had been received to date.

d) Precept for signature. The form was agreed for signature by the RFO for the following sum - Parish Budget £83,525, Reduced by grant from LDC £ 1,003, Precept £82,522

e) New Lease for Parish Council Office the draft had already been circulated and accepted. The document was signed by the Chairman and countersign by the Clerk.
192. E.S.C.C. wants to re-instate bus stops at the following locations, their records show these should be marked with a bus stop pole and flag. Details are below:
Folders Lane Car Park, Ditchling Common, Folders Lane, adj, Folders Lane Car Park
Spatham Lane Lewes Road, Opposite Spatham Lane
Tidy's Depot Folders Lane, outside Tidy's Depot, Ditchling Common
Tidy's Depot Folders Lane, opposite Tidy's Depot Ditchling Common
It was agreed to reply that the Council had considered the proposals but was very concerned about the safety aspect of re-instating the physical bus stops. Those people who use the bus and the drivers know where they should be, had there been a full risk assessment?
193. A.T. Jones – provision of raised kerbs for wheel chair users at St Georges. Details of the List of Legal Powers and Duties had been circulated. There did not appear to be power enabling a council to contribute to such highway work.
194. Lewes District Council report. A.T. Jones gave short report.
195. Written reports by representatives No written reports received to date except Minutes of DVA AGM by email. It was agreed that written reports of meetings should be submitted.
Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs N Banfield
Ditchling Pavilion Club -Mrs C. M. Robinson.
The Ditchling Society –Mrs N Banfield
Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson
Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – D. Mc Beth and P. Smith.
196. Zero Heroes Competition It had been suggested that a replacement litter bin at the crossroads would be useful, however this was not acceptable to the owner of the land, it was suggested that the money could be used to pay for the floodlighting of the War Memorial.