

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 8pm.

Present D. Mc Beth in the Chair, Mrs N. Banfield, Mrs M Bolton, A.T. Jones, M. Madden, P.M. Smith, and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies, Mrs C.M. Robinson, Mrs B. Brittain (unwell),

296. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th February having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
297. Minute 269 Spatham Lane & Speeding. There was no further information to report.
298. Minute 270 Neighbourhood Plan A further meeting had been held, it was hoped to circulate the questionnaires in May. A.T. Jones reported that the proposals in the approved Ditchling Conservation Area Appraisal had not been accepted by the National Park Authority, it was agreed to take this further as it had been approved by LDC..
299. Minute 272 Suggested additional Car Park in Keymer Road Response received giving initial thoughts as follows" - we'll look into it and get back to you with some preliminary thoughts on the estimated lease costs and general agreement for the outlined part of the field - another option could be that we sell that part of the field to the Council (or the whole field?) - we're happy for the field parking proposal to be included in this year's questionnaire for the villagers' opinions and thoughts before any final decision is made on it - finally, we'd prefer that the field is referred by it's correct name as "Middle Bollands Field" rather than the other loose names currently being used for it" It was noted that this was being taken on as part of The Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed to hold an informal meeting of the sub group to assist the Clerk with the application – A.T, Jones, P.M. Smith, Mrs M. Belton and Mrs N. Banfield on 4th April at 5pm in the Parish Office.
300. Minute 275 Ash Tree in Recreation Ground The Report on The Ash Tree had been circulated for action. It was agreed to accept the recommendation from the Consultant to remove the three seats away from the canopy of the tree, Mulch to 8m under the canopy remain vigilant for fungi and have it re- inspected in 3 -5 years. It was also agreed that he could ask for it to be included in the list of native Species Champion Trees as it could be one of the largest recorded Ash Tree to date.
301. Minute 276 Tree planting to commemorate First World War It was noted that inquiries had been made and a plan would be available shortly.
302. Minute 277 East Sussex Planning Event .26 February 2014 - Uckfield Civic Centre Mark Madden gave a short report on the Conference which he had found interesting.
303. Minute 278 Quotations were being sought for the following New firms were being approached for quotations.
Yellow self closing gate on southern fence of children's Play area – this may need to be renewed.
Replacement of fence on both sides of the Burial Ground entrance from Lewes Road. This has rotted and been damaged by the wind.
304. Minute 279 Fly problem in Ditchling 2012 & 2013 It was noted that 140 Red Top fly traps had been collected by residents so far.
305. Minute 280 New Standing Orders This matter had been deferred until 8th April.
306. Minute 281 Grounds Committee Meeting Minute 2 The Feasibility Study has been received and had been discussed with Clubs and possible funders at an informal meeting on 20th March. This had been quite positive and as a result a number of points would be raised. The next meeting with the Clubs and Funders was going to be held on 17th April. A meeting of the Grounds Committee would be held in the Office on 10th April at 8pm.
307. Minute 289 Ditchling Parish Council and the Ditchling Fair 2014. It was agreed that the Council and the neighborhood plan group might have a stall. Mark Madden would look into it further.
308. Minute 292 Litter bin replacement. It was agreed that the bins which had been removed would not be replaced.
309. SDNP/14/00838/FUL
Applicant: Mr K Pawlowski

Proposal: Installation of replacement steel window
Location: 37 High Street, Ditchling, East Sussex, BN6 8SY
No comment

310. SDNP/14/00869/FUL

Case Officer: Julie Cattell
Applicant: Mr B Nathan
Proposal: Change of use of ground floor from retail (A1) to residential use (C3)
Location: 7 High Street, Ditchling, East Sussex, BN6 8SY
No comment

311. SDNP/14/00402/HOUS

Applicant: Mr & Mrs S Morley
Proposal: Erection of first floor side extension
Location: South Tile Barn, Beacon Road
No comment

312. Case No: SDNP/14/01205/HOUS

Applicant: Mr M Craske
Proposal: Replacement of concrete flat roofed garage with brick built pitched roof garage
Location: 70 Lewes Road
No comment

313. Case No: SDNP/14/01262/CONDC

Applicant: 1st Ditchling Scout Group
Proposal: Variation of condition one attached to planning approval LW/95/1273 to allow use of premises by pre-school group to be 08.00 - 15.30 hours Monday - Friday
The Parish Council has no comment to make as it had supported the application as seen in the Minutes accompanying the application.

314. Finance matters

a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance Details were laid on the table, having been scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers.

b) Accounts for payment. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting, the invoices having been scrutinised by the one of the Financial Controllers, were agreed for payment and the cheques signed by D. McBeth and A. Jones..

c) Internal Audit Hugh Barron has recently carried out one of his audits, read the Minutes etc and has made the following comment "*Following my recent audit visit I am concerned about where the expenditure for the legal fees and other expenses associated with the Recreation Ground and the additional expenditure regarding the proposed Car Park in Keymer Road is being met. The budget for 2014/2015 is the same as this year and therefore implies that all the expenditure is committed with no allowance for new schemes. I believe that the Parish Council Reserves is already committed for future schemes. I would suggest that a budget should be drawn up for both of these projects in order for the members and yourself to be clear about what the commitments are likely to be and the effect they will have on the budget and precepts for the future. Hugh Barron, Internal Auditor*" This was noted

d) Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial Grant number 491 was signed..

e) PKF Littlejohn have been appointed to carry out the Annual Audit. This was noted; the Annual Return had to be completed by 9th June.

f) Football and Rugby Club rents 2013/14 In view of the number of games cancelled due to the exceptionally wet season, it was agreed to reduce the Football Club and Rugby Club Fees by 50%.

g) New Burial Fees from 1st April 2014 Copies of the revised fees increased in line with inflation had been circulated, were agreed and duly signed..

315. Parking in Lodge Hill Lane This had been raised by Tom Jones as part of his report but the details had not been received. This had been rectified; copies of the proposal to restrict parking by signage as opposed to double yellow lines had been circulated. It was agreed to respond that the Council felt very strongly that if it should not be approved until the issue of an additional car park was resolved.

316. Burgess Hill Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan Consultation This could be viewed on www.burgesshill.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan. Details circulated on 27th February. It was agreed to ask for a meeting with the Councillors as the Council had not been formally consulted although it stated consultation had taken place. It was also agreed to ask for a meeting with MSDC re its Plan.
317. Ditchling Westmeston and Streat Sports Letter received seeking permission to use the Recreation Ground for the Track events on Monday 26th May at 1pm, The Three Villages Chase on Sunday 25th May at 6.30pm. They would like to mark out the ground on Monday 26th at 9am. This was agreed, it was also agreed to give them a £50 grant.
318. Legal Article taken from Clerk's and Councils Direct re "Acquisition and appropriation of land by local councils"
This article had been circulated and its contents noted..
319. South Downs National Park Copy of the Partnership Management Plan: Shaping the Future of Your South Downs National Park received.
320. The National Park Local Plan Options Consultation Document and the Preliminary Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule These can be viewed on www.consult.southdowns.gov.uk Mrs M. Bolton and P. Smith attended the workshop in the Ditchling Village Hall on 21st March. It was agreed that the full Council would deal with Settlements and Housing Sections, the other sections were shared out, Councillors were asked to study the various options and questions and collate the replies ready for approval on 8th April.
- 321 Lewes District Council Report. A.T. Jones
- 322 Written reports by representatives No written reports received.
Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs B. Brittain
Ditchling Pavilion Club -Mrs C. M. Robinson.
The Ditchling Society –Mrs Margaret Bolton
Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson
Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – D. Mc Beth and P. Smith.

Chairman

8th April 2014