

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 24 October 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Madden (Chairman), Madden (Mrs.), Leaver and the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner. Cllr McBeth joined the meeting at 7.45pm

Public Participation:

7 members of the public were present. The Chairman of the newly formed Underhill Lane Community Association passed a letter to the Chairman with details of the group's constitution.

1. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Madden declared in respect of item 5, by virtue of being acquainted with one of the contractors who has provided a quote to maintain the council's grounds and also being acquainted with Simon Abdy of Active House Solutions.
2. Apologies for absence Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Jones and Ingham (on holiday), Cllr Smith (unwell) and Cllr Robinson (caring for a relative).
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 September having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Planning Applications
 - 4.1 SDNP/16/04741/HOUS 1 Dymocks Manor, 4 East End Lane. Alteration of existing detached garage to form external store room. **No Comment.**
 - 4.2 SDNP/16/04533/HOUS 36 North End. Section 73A retrospective application for the erection of single storey rear extension. **Withdrawn by the planning authority.**
 - 4.3 SDNP/16/04765/HOUS 70 East End Lane. Erection of a ground floor front extension and reroofing of existing house. **No Comment.**

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mrs Crowther to address the council.

The Ditchling Society are happy to coordinate a task force to streamline communications with BT and promote interest in a 4G network. Parking remains a problem in the village and residents would not want to see parking restricted in Lodge Hill Lane. To the west of Lodge Hill a whole copse of trees is being removed. The trees are approx. 5m tall. Mrs Crowther has spoken to the SDNP who were unable to help, but suggested contacting the Forestry Commission.

Cllr McBeth has received information from EE who are seeking to extend 3G voice and 4G data coverage (mobile internet) to rural communities using a technology called Small Cells. They offered to carry out an initial assessment to see if Ditchling could be a possible location to install this technology. The Parish Council has requested that this assessment be carried out, but have not yet heard when the assessment will take place. The Parish Council understand that BT are expecting to deliver super- fast broadband in Ditchling by June 17, this date has been confirmed previously and has not changed.

Cllr McBeth confirmed that at this time there were no plans to restrict parking in Lodge Hill Lane. Mrs Crowther was asked to advise the Clerk if she required any assistance with contacting the appropriate authorities regarding the copse clearance.

Standing Orders were resumed.

5. Outstanding Matters

Neighbourhood Plan Mike Burr is drafting the final version of the plan, (excluding housing and green spaces that are still being prepared for the second pre-submission report).

Recreation Ground to consider the quotations for Grounds maintenance. It was **agreed** to defer the decision to appoint contractors to maintain the grounds and football pitch until the next meeting on 28 November when the Chair of the Grounds Committee should be present.

It was **agreed** that Simon Adby from Active House Solutions would be invited to meet with the Parish Council on 12 December (subsequently changed to 19 December) to discuss whether producing a Sports & Recreational Management Plan.

It was **agreed** that two new dual bins be ordered from Lewes District at a cost of £912 and an annual cost of £171.60 for weekly emptying. One bin will be located just outside the playground gate and one bin will be located by the pavilion. It was noted that the area behind the pavilion remains very untidy, Cllr Smith will be asked to liaise with the Pavilion Club committee.

It was **agreed** to permit Mrs Taylor to site a memorial bench at the location requested overlooking the cricket pitch.

It was **agreed** to arrange for damaged benches on the Recreation Ground to be repaired and restored to a good condition, it was agreed that benches beyond repair will be removed with families informed where these are memorial benches.

It was **agreed** to defer the decision to on disposing on the contents of the groundsman's hut until councillors had inspected the equipment.

It was **agreed** that Ditchling Cricket Club could extend the run up area at the cricket nets by approx. 8 feet, one of the run-ups already extends this distance.

Lighting the faulty light at Nevill Cottages outside no 28 is still not working, an estimate for £247.05 has been received for repairs, this has been approved by the Clerk.

Proposed additional car park to consider the quotations for an Ecology Phase 1 Walkover. The two quotations are very different at £900 and £1,850. Mr Ellis has been contacted for advice It was **agreed** that if Mr Ellis thought the company with the lower quote could produce the required report, then this company would be selected.

Working party- Scout HQ Nothing to report

War Memorial – The War Memorial is now grade II listed. The link to the report compiled by Historic England is on the Parish Council website. The planning authority have been informed that the planning application for the plinth is to be withdrawn – although they are awaiting written confirmation.

6. Finance matters.

- a) To receive the bank reconciliation. This was agreed for August and September 2016
- b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £3,136.81 covered by cheque numbers 301767 to 301774 were **approved**.
- c) Budget comparison report- no questions arose.

7. Correspondence. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.
 P1 Active House Solutions – discussed under Outstanding Matters
 P2 CPRE request for Donation- the Clerk will investigate an appropriate level of donation.
 P3 Amanda Kenyard has complained to Highways regarding the B2116 between Keymer and Ditchling on the East and West Sussex border. The pavement has for many years been totally neglected. and the area of actual tarmac is almost completely taken over with grass and a badly maintained and overgrown hedge. The hedgerow is strewn with litter, including broken bottles which is very dangerous, and asks that the PC put pressure on Highways also. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would ask the highways steward to investigate.
 P4 An East End Lane resident has reported a number of cars parked inconsiderately in the village, it has been also been noted that up to 8 vehicles have been left for several weeks at the Recreation Ground car park. The Clerk has investigated and found that some of the vehicles belong to a local resident, but most are the property of Carringtons garage. The Clerk has spoken to the garage staff. It was **agreed** that signage was required in the recreation ground car park and the clerk would write to Carringtons garage.
 P5 Mrs Taylor – Memorial bench discussed under Outstanding Matters.
8. Written & verbal reports by representatives.
 Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Ingham. Nothing to report
 Ditchling Pavilion Club –Cllr Smith. Nothing to report
 Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson. Nothing to report.
 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – Cllrs Mc Beth and Madden. Nothing to report.
9. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only It was noted that some streetlights remain daylight burning.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman 7 November 2016

**Ditchling Parish Council
 Expenditure October 2016**

Date	Ref	Value (incl vat)
01/10/2016	Ditchling Village Hall rent & electricity	£16.76
05/10/2016	Woodley Grounds maintenance	£1,030.00
20/10/2016	Sussex Sign Centre	£71.52
24/10/2016	The Old Meeting House hall hire	£88.00
10/10/2016	Stationery	£49.37
09/10/2016	BT	£101.65
24/10/2016	Salaries	£1,754.24
01/10/2016	Fuel & repairs	£18.77
03/10/2016	Travel	£6.50
	Total	£3,136.81

