

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 26 July 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs.Madden (Chairman), Smith, Robinson, Leaver, Ingham, Madden (Mrs), Jones and the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Participation:

Carol Bolton spoke on behalf of the Ditchling History Project, who have carried out extensive research on the Ditchling War Memorial, leading to the publication of a pamphlet and a book. The members would like to know why the British Legion thought that a stone plinth close to the War Memorial was appropriate. The members would have liked to see wider representation in the community. The members stated an official objection to the stone plinth:

1. The wording and siting of the plinth within the triangle detract from the purpose of the War Memorial which is to honour those who fought and died in conflict.
2. The decision making process was hasty and there should have been community consultation on a community asset.
3. The plinth detracts from the visual amenity of the memorial site and village entrance.

The Council responded that the siting of the plinth was clearly shown as an agenda item for the meeting of 29 September 2015 and this would have been the appropriate time to make representations. This decision was not taken lightly or with any lack of concern. The plinth will now be subject to a retrospective planning permission application. Cllr Jones undertook to ensure that the application was decided by the District Council Planning Committee rather than the decision be delegated to officers. Members of the public will be able to make representations to the planning officer and the Parish Council during the planning application stage.

Nicolette Upton, spoke in order to correct the minutes of the meeting of 24 May 2016. It was not appropriate to say that the owners of the pond should be responsible for tidying the area around the pond. It is the responsibility of East Sussex County Council to maintain Lodge Lane.

Steve Treharme spoke on behalf of the Ditchling Scouts. He noted that the Scout Group had held a lease since 1967 and had spent in excess of £36,000 on repairs. There are over 100 users per week, including Brownies, Scouts and pre-school users. The Scouts are not intending to relocate. The Scouts had not yet been invited to a meeting to discuss the future of the building.

1. Apologies for absence Apologies received and accepted from Cllr McBeth
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th July having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 4 Outstanding Matters
Neighbourhood Plan and the inconsistency between Policy CONS 12 Protect Local Green Spaces as set out in detail in Designating Local Green Spaces and Policy COM 4 Prepare a Sport and Recreation Plan (for Ditchling Recreation Ground) were considered. Cllr Smith reported that the conflict between the two policies had been drawn to the attention of the Conservation Focus Group. The Sports and Recreation plan, when formulated, may involve development requiring planning permission. Cllr Smith proposed that the Recreation Ground be removed from the list of green spaces or an exception is made within the Neighbourhood Plan and both policies are reworded. This could be important when considering future planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan will be going out for further public consultation very soon. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Neighbourhood Plan Group to request that the Recreation Ground is removed from the list of green spaces.

Recreation Ground incl Burial Ground bin, dog poo signs.

It was agreed that a 770L bin at a cost of £12.88 per fortnight be ordered from Lewes District Council for the Burial Ground. If this bin proves to be too large it can be smaller bin can be requested. It was agreed that 6 dog poo signs on stakes and 6 posters would be ordered.

A gravestone has come away from its fixing and has been laid down flat so that it is not dangerous. The Clerk has written to the family at the last known address but received no reply. It was agreed that a quote for a repair would be sought.

It was noted that sections of the fence around the playground are in need of replacement. Local contractors have been asked to quote for replacing the fence and repairing the slide. Part of the fence has been vandalized and this has been fixed temporarily with orange hazard netting.

Lighting- nothing to report

Proposed additional car park- The Chairman and Clerk met with Ben Ellis, he has been in contact with the planning officer at the SDNP and has advised that the Parish Council will require a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report and this report should be commissioned as soon as possible. The Clerk has been in touch with Huskisson Brown Associates who are based in Tunbridge Wells to provide a quotation. It was agreed that at least two quotes will be sought. A Speed Survey and Safety Audit will be required also these are expected to cost approx. £1,500 each. ESCC will be contacted. The Harris's fair takes place at the site of the proposed car park. Councillors queried whether the fair would be able to continue following the possible construction of a car park. It was agreed that the impact of the fair on the surface would have to be assessed, and this could be built into the specification when contracting for the surface if details of loading could be obtained.

Broadband- a second set of wayleave documents have been signed by Mr Worrall. The Parish Council understands that there have been no changes to the proposed timetable and work will be completed by June 2017.

Website out- of- date pages have been updated. Minutes for the last three years are now available.

Working party- Scout HQ – nothing to report no comments have been received following the paper distributed at the last meeting. Given the difficulty experienced in arranging a meeting during the holiday period, A suitable date for a September meeting will be circulated to members, the Scout Group, the Pre-school and the Pavilion Club.

Road safety & Boundary gates- nothing to report

Footpath at Lodge Hill – the Rights of way officer has provided an update which the Clerk read. The landowner has removed the fence obstructing the footpath. The landowner has submitted a formal diversion application to permanently move the path to the edge of the field. The Parish Council will be consulted when the application is processed, but there are currently 40 applications waiting to be processed.

Electricity Supply Farm Lane- it was agreed that the works to enable the new electricity supply be permitted provided that the lane is re-instated to its current condition.

5.1) SDNP/16/03357/HOUS 38 Common Lane Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8TJ. Demolition of two storey garage/store and erection of a two storey side extension, loft conversion

with rear dormer and front rooflight, replacement of a pool house and widening of front driveway. **No Comment**

5.2) SDNP/16/03274/HOUS 26A Beacon Road Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8UL. Erection of a single storey extension. **No Comment**

5.3) SDNP/16/03371/LIS 28 West Street Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8TS Construction of extensions to the side and rear elevations and minor internal alterations. **No Comment.**

5.4) SDNP/16/03443/HOUS 72 Lewes Road Ditchling BN6 8TY
Erection of a replacement of summerhouse. **No Comment**

5.5) SDNP/16/03525/HOUS Wings Place 24 West Street Ditchling. Erection of a single storey rear extension. **No Comment**

6. Finance matters.

a) To receive the bank reconciliation. This was **agreed** as correct by Cllr Madden

b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £5,334.07 covered by cheque numbers 301737 to 301747 were **approved**.

c) Budget comparison report. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan budget should be an agenda item at the next full Parish Council meeting.

7. Correspondence. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

P1 It was agreed that a grant £50 be awarded to the Village Sports Day

P2 Ms Upton spoke during the public session.

P3 The Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy was adopted by the South Downs National Park Authority on 23 June 2016. This was noted.

P4 It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a retrospective planning application.

P5. LDC Annual Conference -Cllrs McBeth, Madden and the clerk will attend.

P6 Ditchling Cricket Club – the Clerk to suggest, again, a meeting with the Cricket Club. It was noted that the Cricket Club had been widely consulted on all aspect of the works to the new pitch. The Sport England appointed project manager has advised that a claim for liquidated damages should not be made at this time.

P7 – The Parish Council did not support no cycling signs on the footpath along Lewes Road by the School, but thought that it was advisable to write to the school and point out the dangers of riding along the footpath.

P8 – Cllr Madden & Robinson volunteered to attend the event on 21 November 6.30 pm Lewes Town Hall to learn about the SDNP Local Plan.

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

The bus shelters outside St Georges are in a poor state of repair. The glass is broken. The wood needs treating. The increased incidence of flies has been noted. The Clerk has spoken to the Environmental Health Department as Lewes District Council and is awaiting a response.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman _____ 8 August 2016

Ditchling Parish Council	
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