

# Ditchling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Monday 22 August 2016 at 7.30pm

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

Declarations of Interest: None.

### Public Participation:

Carol Bolton spoke on behalf of the Ditchling History Project, the group realise that the British Legion spent a lot of money on the plinth which is well designed and it would be acceptable to the group if the plinth was re-sited closer to the museum.

Howard Foskin from 72 East End Lane addressed the Parish Council regarding planning application 3.2 70 East End Lane. Number 72 has been built in the former garden of number 70. Mr. Foskin considers that the amended plans showed no major changes and referred to a boundary covenant restricting the height to 1.5m.

Shirley Crowther chair of the Ditchling Society asked if the boundary gates were still being considered outside of the Neighbourhood Plan process and whether there was any news on a new rugby pitch.

David Chetwin, the architect for application 3.2 spoke in support of the application. Earlier comments on the original scheme from the Parish Council were listened to and the new scheme has incorporated substantial change with much of the glass removed. The windows have also been altered to reduce overlooking and a landing changed to a bedroom to reduce overlooking of neighbours. The increase in ridge height is 6 feet. This is a large plot with the building set well back. There are three storey buildings in the local vicinity. The proposed building will not be dominating.

Mr. Foskin responded that his property at the rear boundary is very close to the proposed property which sits higher than its neighbours. The matter of the covenant on height was questioned and the applicant confirmed that this relates to the wall at the rear boundary only.

Other neighbours spoke to object to the planning application 3.2, which it was felt was inappropriate in the historic setting.

1. Apologies for absence Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Leaver
2. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 August having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
3. Planning Applications

3.1) SDNP/16/03920/FUL The Meeting House East Gardens Ditchling. Replacement of existing timber windows and doors, replacement of full height window with door and steps for wheelchair ramp.

### **No Comment**

3.2) SDNP/16/00850/HOUS 70 East End Lane Ditchling Loft conversion including raised ridge height, creation of front and rear gables, insertion of dormer windows to front and roof lights to rear, demolition of existing ground floor extension and erection of new ground floor extension

## No Comment

3.3) SDNP/16/03872/HOUS 41A Lewes Road Ditchling BN6 8TU Single storey side extension.

## No Comment

## 4 Outstanding Matters

Neighbourhood Plan and unspent budget of £12,000. Cllr Smith noted that £12,000 had been set aside in the Parish Council budget to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan was properly resourced and the intention was that these funds would pay for additional personnel. The Neighbourhood Plan Project Management Group has been consulted. It was important that time spent searching for grants and sponsorship could be resourced. Cllr Smith proposed that the recruitment process could commence now. The Council noted that it was not clear what projects would emerge requiring funding until the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted. It was thought that the plan would be adopted in Spring 2017. It was agreed that Councillors would compile a list of projects requiring funding before progressing with recruitment.

Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the hire charge in the first year for Plumpton Athletic FC would be £100

It was agreed to accept the quote from CBC Fencing for £1,600 to repair the playground fence and slide.

The drainage quote from Aquatech. was considered. It was agreed that the water storage tank may not be required and a revised quote with water from the guttering, once installed, to run straight into one of the lateral drains under the pitch would be requested. An alternative quote would also be sought.

It was noted that the water table at the Recreation Ground was high and there were large quantities of ground water in the area.

Ditchling Cricket Club has requested permission to erect a marquee for a week from 7 August 2017. It was agreed that permission be given. The Cricket Club had also requested a waiver of the season's rent. It was agreed to defer this matter until the Cricket Club had provided a copy of their accounts.

Lighting the lamp post at the corner of Lodge Lane has been partially obscured by the hedge, it was agreed that the clerk would contact the owner to request that the hedge is cut back. The faulty light at Long Park Corner has not been repaired, the Clerk will chase ESCC.

Proposed additional car park. A quote has been received for a Landscape and Visual Impact assessment. Further quotes should be available by the next meeting. It was agreed that quotes will now be sought from drainage and ecology reports.

Broadband It was reported that following the signing of wayleaves for both boxes that BT are in discussions with Highways regarding setting a date for the road works to take place to allow the necessary work to be carried out on the highway.

Website Nothing to report

Working party- Scout HQ. It was agreed to meet on 20 September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office with the Clerk to invite interested parties.

Road safety & Boundary gates. It was agreed that boundary gates should be a subject for discussion with the Neighbourhood Plan Project Management Group.

War Memorial LDC have been informed that the Parish Council will not be making a retrospective planning application for the siting of the plinth. Historic England have prepared a report as a part of their assessment for listing the memorial. Discussions have been held by the British Legion. Cllr Jones quoted the Parish Council Minutes from August and September 2015. He noted that the plinth was commissioned by the Royal British Legion at a cost of £2,400 after the Parish Council had given permission for siting of the plinth on the War Memorial triangle. The funds which paid for the plinth and the earlier works to install lighting originate from a substantial legacy left to the Ditchling branch of the RBL. The RBL have been surprised at the objections received since the plinth was erected, and they now plan to submit a retrospective planning application. This application will be decided by the South Downs National Park; the Parish Council will have an opportunity to comment. If the planning application is refused there will be additional costs of moving the plinth and additional engraving will be required. Cllr Jones noted that he had a public service interest in matters relating to the RBL. The Chairman confirmed that there was no pecuniary interest to be declared and referred to the Code of Conduct.

5. Finance matters.

- a) To receive the bank reconciliation. This was **agreed** as correct by Cllr Madden
- b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £4,120.46 covered by cheque numbers 301748 to 301754 were **approved**.

6. It was agreed that the following policies be adopted

- 6.1) Disciplinary Policy
- 6.2) Equal Opportunities Policy
- 6.3) Training Policy

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

P1 -Gordon Bain requested permission to plant daffodil bulbs in the children's playground, at the War Memorial, Corner of East End Lane/Lewes Road. This was agreed provided daffodils were planted in the corners of the triangle surrounding the War Memorial, only.

P2-Louise Evatt requested that the play be updated with more modern equipment and an improved path from Farm Lane and a weather proof surface in the playground be provided. It was agreed that the current surface is adequate but the playground would benefit from additional equipment. The Clerk will re-circulate some play ideas.

P3 It was noted that Historic England have produced a report relating to the War Memorial

P4 -Airs had sent details of a number of events, no councillors wished to attend

P5- Andrew Morris requested potential venues for an open-air pop up cinema. It was agreed that there were no suitable venues.

P6- This item was covered in outstanding matters

P7 Ditchling Scout Group have written to request an extension to the lease at the Scout HQ. It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the meeting to be held on 20 September 2016

P8- A request has been from Anthony Howell, Strategic Policy Officer at LDC to meet to discuss Rural Exception sites. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Mr Howell.

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 hedge at Beacon Road has been reported and inspected but remains uncut. The Clerk to chase ESCC again.

There is a dip in the road in the High Street by Church Lane.

The crater in the village hall car park has increased in depth and width, this will be reported again.

The War Memorial requires cleaning by the end of October.

Suggestions to encourage members of the public to read the Parish Council minutes, included posters and moving around notice boards.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman 12 September 2016

<b>Ditchling Parish Council</b>		
<b>Expenditure August 2016</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Value (incl vat)</b>
09/05/2016	Ditchling, Streat, Westmeston PCC	£50.00
01/08/2016	Ditchling Village Hall rent & electricity	£22.04
16/08/2016	SOS Systems copier	£55.36
31/05/2016	Ditchling, Streat, Westmeston Sports	£50.00
11/08/2016	BT	£10.20
26/04/2016	Salaries	£3,594.40
22/08/2016	Fuel & repairs	£86.82
09/08/2016	Divot forks and goal sockets	£178.50
08/08/2016	Dog poo signs	£38.14
31/08/2016	Website	£35.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,120.46</b>