

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 30 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Smith, Madden (Mr), Madden (Mrs) and Ingham (from 8pm), Orme and the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner.

Public Participation:

Three members of the public were present.

1. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Ingham declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 the Scout HQ as she is a close neighbour.
2. Apologies for absence Cllr Leaver who is abroad, Cllr Robinson who is caring for a relative, and Cllr Jones, attending another meeting.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 January having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Mrs Peggy Guggenheim and Mrs Sam Keeley stood for co-option. Cllr Smith proposed that both candidates be co-opted, seconded Cllr Madden (Mrs), both candidates were co-opted with a unanimous vote. Mrs Guggenheim is a resident at St George's Park and previous appointments include a school governor and a board member of a housing association. Mrs Keeley is currently studying Art History but comes from a construction background including managing maintenance contracts for local authorities. Mrs Guggenheim and Mrs Keeley signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting. The Chairman noted that the council was now at full strength with a full complement of councillors.

Standing Orders were suspended and Mike Burr the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group was invited to join councillor's discussions on the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that following the public consultation period there were some issues to be resolved. It was **agreed** that the council should seek counsel's opinion on some aspects of the plan to ensure that the plan cannot be ignored by developers at a future date, particularly given the situation which has arisen in neighbouring Newick Parish, where the validity of the neighbourhood plan has been called into question. The Chairman read from the report sent to the council from Maria Caulfield MP.

'As one of many councils currently putting together a Neighbourhood Plan. I would like again to confirm that I am working hard to legally strengthen neighbourhood plans through the current Planning Bill going through Parliament.

Baroness Cumberledge is putting amendments in the House of Lords, whilst myself and the Member of Parliament for Arundel and South Downs, Nick Herbert, will ensure that a Newick situation can't happen again when it re-enters the Commons.'

It was noted that the inspector who is appointed to examine the plan will determine if the plan is sound, but will not be able to give a legal opinion on aspects of the plan that could potentially be challenged in the future. It was **agreed** that draft instructions on the implications of permitting development outside the settlement boundary should be prepared and planning/legal specialists approached to give quotations. It was **agreed** that at least three quotes should be obtained and that there were funds of £12,000 allocated in the budget for Neighbourhood Plan expenses. It was noted that specific emphasis could be included in the Plan to ensure that any windfall sites were limited to small dwellings. It was further noted that agricultural redundant buildings should enhance their setting as specified in the national guidance, and

that this was not specifically included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Smith has circulated a revised draft Plan and the Community Communication Engagement & Publicity (CEP) which simply corrected omissions to the Community Infrastructure Policies. He also circulated a revised Statement of Conditions which must be submitted to SDNPA with the Plan and CEP documents. There will be a meeting between the Project Management Group and officers from the SDNPA next week. Cllr Smith will also attend.

Mike Burr, Edwina Rowling, Julie Middleton and Tom Dufty were commended on the excellent work to date.

Standing Orders were resumed

5. Planning Applications

5.1 SDNP/16/05994/FUL. 92 Lewes Road, Ditchling. Amended plans for loft conversion and rear dormer windows. **No Comment**

5.2 SDNP/16/00023/TCA. New Court House, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling. Fell one apple tree.
No Comment

6. Outstanding Matters

Neighbourhood Plan and NP Projects Neighbourhood. Cllr Smith's list of projects had been circulated. Members are requested to comment on the list. Simon Adby had presented to the council in December. It would be useful to speak to other consultants, it may be that a combination of a landscape architect and a facilitator are required to produce a Sports and Recreation Plan. A lot of work has been completed by the Neighbourhood Plan focus group, but it was felt that young people had not fed into the group in large numbers and were under-represented. The Ditchling Scouts are an important potential user group, but are currently located too far away from the recreation ground. It was noted that the poor playground facilities mean that the equipment is not well used. It was noted that the open character of the recreation ground should be preserved. Louise Evatt was expected to report to the council shortly with proposals for improved play facilities. The first action would be to hold a meeting with all interested parties, councillors to prepare a list of people to invite. The guttering and drainage work needs to take place, a new drainage contractor is required. It was agreed that the capital cost of a groundwater extraction and irrigation would be investigated.

Recreation Ground to consider quotations for a tree survey. It was **agreed** that Bonny's Wood be asked to carry out the tree survey.

Lighting- Nothing to report

Proposed additional car park. It was noted that bird boxes should not be required at the site as the new hedging would provide plenty of nesting sites. The Landscape report did not show the dimensions of the car park, this information should be included. The drainage report has not yet been received, once this report is ready Mr Ellis will be able to prepare the planning application.

Working party- Scout HQ It was agreed that all sub-letting other than the existing arrangement would require landlords consent. The Scout Association have not yet provided their standard clauses and this has meant that the lease has not been progressed.

Speed watch -Nothing to report.

Bus shelters at St George's Park. The clerk has contacted Compass Travel, the local bus provider. They did not install bus stops and are responsible only for the timetables supplied at bus stops. ESCC have not yet advised who is responsible for maintenance. Cllr Madden (Mrs) has also been in touch with the local bus transport team in Lewes. It was noted that 300 staff were employed at St George's park with up to 100 on any one day, although many travel using the staff mini -bus, it was likely that the bus stop was well used.

7. Finance matters.

- a) To receive the bank reconciliation. This was **agreed** for December 2016
- b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £7,608.66 covered by cheque numbers 301800 to 301813 were **approved**.
- c) Budget monitoring report to 31 December 2016- no comment

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

P1 Rebecca Smith -Neighbourly care scheme to operate in Ditchling. Initial meeting 12th January. The Chairman has been to meetings in the past weeks with SSALC and ESALC it was noted that as county and district councils seek to reduce care budgets, these schemes are likely to be funded by Parish Councils in the future.

P2 Parking Services – to consider the proposals to restrict parking in the marked bays outside 26 High St and from 35 High Street to a maximum two hour stay Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm and a blue badge holder place to be installed at Nevill Cottages and red lines painted at the junction with Beacon Road. It was noted that the third bay in the High Street was excluded from proposed restrictions, and that loading and unloading was permitted where yellow lines were in place. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would make no comment on the restrictions on the High Street proposed by ESCC, but welcomed the changes at Nevill Cottages.

P3 Hannah Tedman requested permission to use the recreation ground on Monday 1 May for the Village Sports Day. This was **agreed**.

P4 It was **agreed** that Cllr Smith will attend the SDNP planning committee on 9 February (date to be confirmed) and speak on behalf of the council.

P5 It was noted that works to the cricket nets have been completed.

P6 It was noted that the Beacon Road from Long Park Corner to the NT car park would be closed on 6 July from 19:20-21:10 for the Tour of Sussex. The organisers had confirmed that they had no plans to paint the road.

9. 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.

10. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only None

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Expenditure January 2017

| Date | Ref | Value (incl vat) £ |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 02/01/2017 | Ditchling Village Hall rent & electricity | 200.37 |
| 23/01/2017 | S.Woodley Grounds maintenance | 945.00 |
| 20/12/2016 | Shingle & mot Burial Ground Drive | 90.48 |
| 30/01/2017 | Salaries | 1,809.00 |
| 08/01/2017 | BT | 113.52 |
| 19/01/2017 | Landscape report | 2,700.00 |
| 15/12/2016 | LDC - Bins | 350.48 |
| 13/01/2017 | Stationery | 56.95 |
| 20/12/2016 | Stamps | 38.40 |
| 09/01/2017 | NP Expenses | 239.47 |
| 23/01/2017 | Wellers Headley Legal advice | 278.00 |
| 10/01/2017 | Website | 155.00 |
| 12/01/2017 | NP Printing | 168.00 |
| 09/01/2017 | SLCC Subscription | 167.00 |
| 09/01/2017 | One drive | 1.99 |
| 17/01/2017 | Open Spaces subscription | 45.00 |
| 12/01/2017 | Pest control | 250.00 |
| | Total | 7,608.66 |