

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 22 May 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Smith, Leaver, Ingham, Guggenheim, Keeley, Orme and the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner.

Public Participation:

5 members of the public were present

1. Declarations of Interest: None
2. Apologies for absence. Cllr Madden, unavailable
3. The chairman suspended standing orders whilst agenda item 9 the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to the South Downs National Park Planning Authority was considered. Members considered whether the report should be shortened for ease of reference in the future. It was recognized that the document was shorter than earlier drafts and the SDNP officer liaising with the steering group was not concerned at the length of the document which was in line with other local neighbourhood plans. It was noted that the definition of windfall sites could be clarified. It was noted that the document would be submitted to the SDNPA rather than LDC. It was noted that policy HSG1 states that proposals will be supported where units are provided suitable for an aging population, while not specifying that these units should be small units. A larger dwelling could be suitable for an elderly occupant. The policy may require further clarification. It was noted that following the submission of the final plan to the SDNPA there would follow a 6 week public consultation and such policies can be clarified before the plan goes to the appointed planning inspector. It was noted that the aspirational policies will not form a part of the statutory plan. The council and the former chairman of the steering group Tom Dufty paid tribute to the hard work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group over the past three years. Standing orders were resumed. The council **resolved** to submit the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan to the South Down National Park Planning Authority. The chairman signed the letter that will be posted with the data stick to the planning policy officer.
The Chairman suspended standing order to allow a resident of Lodge Hill Lane to speak in respect of agenda item 14, parking in Lodge Hill Lane. The resident reported that parking in Lodge Hill Lane was always problematic but had been exacerbated by the recent Artist Open Houses event. Erosion of the verge and the edge of the highways has resulted in visitors now parking closer to the centre of the road, blocking in residents and causing the road to be impassable to emergency vehicles. The council are aware of the problem and have applied for planning permission for a new public car park to alleviate this problem. Unfortunately the planning decision which was due this week have now been delayed until July 2017. The resident was asked to report dangerous parking to the police. The Council will ask the ESCC highways steward to assess the road for repairs. Standing order were resumed.
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 May having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
5. Election of Vice Chairman & Financial Controller of the Parish Council. Cllr Orme was elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Guggenheim was elected as Financial Controller of the Parish Council.
6. Appointment of Chairman of Grounds & Burials Committee. Cllr Smith was elected as Chairman of the Ground & Burials Committee

7. Appointment of members of the Grounds & Burials Committee. Cllrs Keeley and Ingham were appointed as members of the Grounds & Burial Committee
8. Appointment of members of the Finance Committee. Cllrs Guggenheim, Smith, Robinson and Keeley were appointed as members of the Finance committee
9. Planning Applications all applications were considered and discussed.
 - 8.1 SDNP/17/02060/ADV. Display a total of 4 non-illuminated boundary markers at the following locations: Land adjacent to B2112 Ditchling - Our Ref-ESCC1/17 Land adjacent to A275 Cooksbridge - Our Ref-ESCC2/18 Land adjacent to A259 Seaford - Our Ref-ESCC3/19 Land adjacent to A275 Eastbourne - Our Ref-ESCC4/20.
Recommend approval. Ditchling is a gateway to the South Downs National Park and welcomes signage to highlight this feature to visitors. It is hoped that the signage may have a traffic calming effect.
 - 8.2 SDNP/17/00126/FULNotcutts Garden Centre Common Lane Ditchling. Proposed refurbishment and upgrade, including replacement of some existing structures, and amended internal layout. **Objection**, the highways feasibility report swept path analysis diagram shows that the proposed access is inadequate and this should be resolved before permission is granted.
10. The public session – to revise the form of wording on the agenda It was **agreed** that the wording on future agendas would be changed so that members of the public can make representations during the public session on items appearing on the agenda or non-agenda items at the discretion of the chairman.
11. Consideration of footpath diversion at 46a at Lodge Hill Lane. It was noted that the proposed footpath had a reduced amenity value compared to the existing footpath. The walking conditions on the proposed path will not be as good as on the present route which is on established tracks, which are generally dry and easy to walk even in the winter. The proposed route is in area of the field which was until recently overgrown with roots and foliage, and remains uneven. The footpath is well used, is a historic route and high quality public space which encourages active use. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would object to the proposed diversion.
12. Consideration of additional dog poo bin at The Drove. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would ask whether the Rugby Club would make a financial contribution towards the cost of the bin.
13. To consider estimates for tree works at the Recreation Ground. It was **agreed** that Connick Tree Care would be asked to carry out the work.
14. To consider parking in Lodge Hill Lane. It was noted that ESCC Highways had objected to the planning application for a new public car park at Keymer Road and had suggested modifications to the scheme, it was **agreed** that a meeting or telephone call with ESCC Highways should be arranged so that the objection could be overcome and the planning application proceed. It was noted that there was no provision for buses in the proposed car park. It was noted that if the planning application was granted parking problems in Lodge Hill Lane could be addressed.
15. Finance Matters
 - a) The bank reconciliation for April 17 was deferred to the next meeting

- b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £3,381.71 covered by cheque numbers 301900 to 301910 were **approved**.
- c) The Co-operative Bank business online form was signed. Cllr McBeth and the Clerk are the two nominated account users

16. Correspondence

P1- Ditchling Pre-School request for grant. It was **agreed** that a grant of £250 be paid.
 P2 – Verge at 40 Lewes Road. ESCC highways had inspected the verge and advised that the damage is not extensive enough for ESCC highways to make repairs. The Parish Council **agreed** that it would not apply for a licence to install posts.

17. Written & verbal reports by representatives.

Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Smith– none
 Ditchling Pavilion Club –Cllr Smith- none
 Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson-none
 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – Cllrs Mc Beth and Madden- nothing to report

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman 5 June 2017

**Ditchling Parish Council
 Expenditure May 2017**

Date	Ref	Value (incl vat)
24/04/2017	Hugh Barron	£150.00
08/05/2017	Edge IT Systems	£259.20
01/05/2017	LDALPC subscription	£30.00
15/05/2017	Don McBeth re printing	£215.00
15/05/2017	Simon Woodley ground repairs	£140.00
15/05/2017	Aspect Ecology	£384.00
02/05/2017	Rabbit Waste re skip	£246.00
24/04/2017	Salaries	£1,834.59
24/04/2017	One Drive	£1.99
01/04/2017	Hall hire	£58.54
15/05/2017	Stamps & Stationery	£27.39
31/05/2017	Website, monthly maintenance	£35.00
		£3,381.71