

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 26 June 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Public Participation:

6 members of the public were present. Cllr McBeth thanked members of the neighbourhood plan steering group for attending and invited Mary Holman, BEM to present gifts to the leaders of the steering group in recognition of the hard work that had gone into the production of the Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Declarations of Interest: None
2. Apologies for absence. Cllr Leaver and Cllr Robinson, unavailable. Cllr Jones, attending another meeting
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 May having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Planning Applications
 - 4.1 SDNP/17/02146/HOUS. 43 High Street Ditchling. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a new garage with storage. **Objection-** the proposed garage by virtue of its height would adversely affect the character of the conservation area
 - 4.2 LW/17/0410 Fleets Farmhouse Fleets Farm Spatham Lane Westmeston. Single storey extensions. **No comment**
 - 4.3 SDNP/17/02044/FUL13 Long Park Corner Ditchling. Creation of box dormer to the rear elevation. **No comment.**
 - 4.4 SDNP/17/02528/FUL, Street Record, Clayton Road. Insertion of access opening/gate in the hedgerow **Objection**, there is insufficient information in the application for a decision to be formed. There is no transport statement or road safety audit to support the proposals
 - 4.5 SDNP/17/02704/HOUS 94 North End. Single storey rear extension and front porch, internal and external. **No Comment**
 - 4.6 SDNP/17/02397/HOUS. 11 High Street. Removal of stub wall fronting the road, replace front door, replace side gate and alterations and improvements to windows. **Objection**, the widening of the vehicular access remains inappropriate in this location and would be detrimental to the character of the surrounding area
5. Additional road signage at East End Lane Two signs saying NO WIDE VEHICLES DO NOT FOLLOW SAT NAV or similar for East End lane would cost approx. £450. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would consult with the wider community and the matter would be raised at the AGM of the Ditchling Society on 27 June 2017
6. Borehole at Recreation Ground Cllr Smith reported that he had been in contact with Nicholls Boreholes, a company operating in Sussex. Currently water at the recreation ground is supplied by SE Water, the water pressure is low. There may be future droughts. If water was pumped from underground it would be stored in an underground tank. Costs are likely to exceed £15,000. It was **agreed** that Cllr Smith would continue to investigate the costs and options and in particular look at the likely payback period. It was noted that the existing infrastructure was out of date and investment would be required. It was noted that there may be construction work on site in the future and such works would have a high-water use.

7. Parish magazine. The excellent quality of the magazine produced for Wivelsfield Parish was noted. It was **agreed** that the clerk would request a mock up magazine from the supplier and speak to Talk About to determine how a competing publication would affect this local business.
8. Sport England & football pitch final account. It was noted that total costs including legal costs and the first - years maintenance were £114,437 with grants received of £81,000 and grants due of £33,437.
9. Transfer of Village Hall status Cllr Madden explained that the village hall constitution dated back to 1921 and was no longer fit for purpose. The trustees are made up from 18 different village societies, many now defunct. This proved to be unwieldy several years ago and so a smaller management committee was formed. Currently trustees have unlimited personal liability. It is difficult to attract volunteers. Action in Rural Sussex have recommended a CIO structure (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). AiRs are meeting with the trustees on Monday 3rd July at 3pm, councillors are welcome to attend. The village hall has funds but plans to use those funds to improve the building with new windows, front doors and external improvements. The council in principle **agreed** to meet legal and professional costs on behalf of the community to put in place the CIO, subject to sight of the Village Hall accounts and quotations from solicitors.
10. Scout HQ lease renewal. It was **agreed** that the changes made to the draft lease by the Scouts be accepted and a five-year lease be offered. It was noted that the Ditchling Scouts had gained a number of volunteers over the past year and the future of the group is therefore healthy.
11. Deputy Clerk position. It was agreed that the position be offered to Derek Blackhall, with a 6- month probation period.
12. Finance matters
 - a) The bank reconciliation for April and May were **agreed**.
 - b) Payments totalling £9,203.97 covered by cheque numbers 3019011 to 301920 were **approved**
13. Correspondence

P1 East Sussex against Scams partnership – it was agreed that no Friends Against Scams awareness session would be requested.

P2 Belinda Gordon – replacement dwelling 11 East Gardens. No questions from councillors

P3 Chris Smith -Open Spaces Society -to note that a strong objection has been made re the proposed diversion of Ditchling footpath 46a. Noted

P4 Annabelle Harvey- repairs to bus stops at St George's Park are due to take place this week, it was noted that work had not yet commenced.
14. 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- It was noted that a new chair had been elected.

It was noted that Cllr McBeth had met with Mr Michael Coward chair of governors at St Margaret's Primary School. The Council is pleased to note the Governing bodies plans to make improvements at the school.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman 10 July 2017

**Ditchling Parish Council
Expenditure June 2017**

| Date | Ref | Value (incl vat) |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 29/05/2017 | Aon | £3,490.22 |
| 29/05/2017 | Ditchling Pre -School | £250.00 |
| 01/06/2017 | Hall hire | £41.58 |
| 22/06/2017 | Kestrel Contractors | £2,252.45 |
| 05/06/2017 | Simon Woodley ground repairs | £100.00 |
| 06/06/2017 | Lewes District Council | £711.80 |
| 30/05/2017 | Lewis & Co Planning Consultants | £120.00 |
| 26/06/2017 | Salaries | £1,834.59 |
| 24/04/2017 | One Drive | £1.99 |
| 24/05/2017 | Whistlestop Trading Post | £175.00 |
| 30/05/2017 | Ridgeview Wine Estate | £80.00 |
| 20/06/2017 | Mark Littmoden | £102.00 |
| 29/05/2017 | Stamps & Stationery | £9.34 |
| 30/06/2017 | Website, monthly maintenance | £35.00 |
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| | | £9,203.97 |
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