

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 8 May 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Public Participation:

Five members of the public were present

1. Election of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr McBeth was elected as chairman of the council and signed the declaration of office.
2. Election of Vice Chairman & Financial Controller of the Parish Council. This item was deferred until the next meeting. The chairman announced that Cllr Madden (Mr) has resigned from the council and thanked him for all his hard work as a member of the council.
3. Appointment of Chairman of Grounds & Burials Committee. This item was deferred until the next meeting.
4. Appointment of Committee members: Finance Committee. This item was deferred until the next meeting.
5. Appointment of representatives to committee and societies. The following appointments were made:
Village Hall Management Committee- Cllr Smith
Ditchling Pavilion Club- Cllr Smith
The Oldland Windmill Trust- Roger Broadbent
The Ditchling Society- Cllr Ingham
The Ditchling Village Association – Cllr Robinson
Lewes District Council of Local Councils (two representatives)- Cllr McBeth & Cllr Madden
6. Declarations of Interest on any items on the Agenda must be declared and specified- None
7. Apologies for absence. Cllr Robinson -not available and Cllr Smith-not available.
8. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 April having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
9. Neighbourhood Plan Green Space Policy. The chairman suspended standing orders and invited Julie Middleton from the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to address the council.

The Group presented the paper; Protecting Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan, previously circulated. Following the earlier public consultation which included 20 green spaces and generated considerable feedback, particularly from the SDNP the group had employed a new approach. Each green space was rigorously assessed to ensure that it met with the required criteria- and was demonstrably 'special' and therefore worthy of inclusion. Large areas of land cannot be designated as green space. The space must be adjacent to the community. The results of the review are shown on pages 8-10, with some areas removed and two new areas added. The two new sites are Jointure Copse and West Mead field, off Clayton Road and south of Droveaway. There are now 9 designated sites, with 7 in Ditchling where no development should be permitted except in exceptional circumstances. Ditchling recreation ground has not been designated a green space as this policy is not suitable where future development to enhance community facilities may occur. The plan will now use a three- tiered approach to identify the range and quality of green spaces valued by the local community. These will be local green spaces, community open spaces and green infrastructure. With local green spaces having the highest level of protection and green infrastructure the least. Ditchling has more spaces designated than most local plans but this reflects the richness of the environment. The owners of the two new sites

identified will be consulted this week and given a chance to respond, before the paper is finalised. The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan is due to be considered by the full council on 22 May with printed copies to be distributed on 15 May. It was noted that the Drove Cottages should be shaded grey in figure 4. It was noted that in figure 1 local green spaces were shaded green and in figure 4 recreation grounds and playing fields were shaded green and this could be confusing. Standing orders were resumed.

10. Planning Applications

9.1 SDNP/17/01697/FUL 68 Lewes Road Ditchling. Change of use of part of car show room to café and bike shop. Whilst the Parish Council supports the development of small business in the community, there were concerns that there was no parking available to the coffee shop as the car sales business monopolises the public spaces at the site. It was noted that a temporary permission may be appropriate at this site. Cllr Jones abstained.

11. The Annual Return of the Council

11.1) The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement, section 1 of the Annual Return.

11.2) The Council agreed the Accounting Statements 2016/17, section 2 of the Annual Return and signed the Annual Return

11.3) The Council approved the Fixed Asset Register

11.4) To Council noted the Internal Auditors report and that there are no actions resulting from it.

11.5) Hugh Barron was appointed to undertake the internal audit function for the Parish Council during 2017/18.

12. Parish Council staffing. It was agreed that 8 additional clerk hours per week were required if the Council were to manage ongoing projects effectively. It was noted that it may be possible to share a deputy clerk role with Wivelsfield.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman 22 May 2017