

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Pavilion, Ditchling Recreation Ground, Lewes Road, on Monday 21 August 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Smith, Madden, Ingham, Guggenheim, Keeley, Orme, Jones, Leaver, Robinson the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner and the Deputy Clerk Mr D. Blackhall.

Mr Sean Guirey, chairman of the Pavilion Club gave a presentation to the council. The Pavilion Club is run by three trustees and a committee of volunteers. Balancing the books has been a challenge in recent years as infrastructure works have meant that rental income has fluctuated. The buildings have been improved using grant monies from the Philipson Trust and the Turner Dumbrell Trust. Currently the income is sufficient to meet the cost of running repairs. The clubs using the facilities are not coordinated. If a future decision is to be made on whether to refurbish or demolish the existing facility, it will be necessary to gain the support of all clubs and a committee of clubs could help to achieve this. The community seems to have lost touch with the pavilion and the recreation ground. The main users are dog walkers. The cricket club has a junior section, but no other clubs have junior teams, so there are no young people coming through the clubs to the senior teams. The chairman noted that a plenary meeting with all clubs arranged by the Parish Council would be a good starting point.

Public Participation:

6 members of the public were present. A resident noted that he supported the vision of the Pavilion Club.

A resident of East End Lane spoke regarding item 4. A roadside wall outside the resident's house had been damaged by a HGV vehicle earlier in the year. The sign at the High Street End of East End Lane is facing the wrong way and says no restrictions. This is incorrect and unsafe. The new sign proposed by ESCC is not sufficient.

1. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Madden and Cllr Smith declared an interest in respect of item 7 as they are trustees of Ditchling Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 10 as he is a member of the British Legion.
2. Apologies for absence. None
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 August having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Additional road signage at East End Lane Kelly Burr Senior Traffic and Safety Officer ESCC had provided an example of a sign to be placed at the Lewes Road junction with East End Lane. It was noted that the current 7.5t weight limit sign was ignored. The signage must make clear that the road narrows, a width restriction would be more appropriate. It was **agreed** that the council would request a meeting with ESCC highways to discuss signage in East End Lane and other key locations in the village. SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meetings with ESCC were abandoned by the council previously as they seemed to have limited value, these meetings could be reinstated. It was noted that residents can request a smaller delivery vehicle when placing orders.
5. Parish magazine. It was **agreed** that the coloured logo would appear on the front page of the magazine. It was noted a number of local clubs and societies were contributing articles and all copy should be with the deputy clerk by 15 September.
6. Infrastructure Projects SDNP CIL. The draft forms circulated were **agreed** and would be submitted to the SDNP. The projects listed and sums requested were: Ditchling pavilion £60,000; Playground £20,000; Burial ground extension £5,000, Car park £30,000, Traffic improvements feasibility study £5,000. It was noted that there may be no CIL money available for any of the projects.

7. Transfer of Village Hall status. Work to change the status of the charity to a CIO has commenced. The Village Hall has a new website: ditchlingvillagehall.uk
8. Proposed new car park. The council noted that revised plans were being prepared by the landscape consultants and these were expected by 31 August. It was likely that this may be too late for the application to go before the September Planning Committee on 14 September.
9. New play equipment and playground fence. It was noted that the proposed extended area would mean that the Harlem equipment (the basketball area) would be removed. Cllr Smith & Keeley have visited a number of local playgrounds. The community magazine is an ideal forum to launch a consultation process. An open day could be held at the Pavilion. The projected cost would exceed the current budget of £30,000 inclusive of grants. Sources for grant funding had been identified. A new path would be provided from Farm Lane to the playground gate. It was noted that a path was also required from the pavilion to the playground, as this area becomes especially boggy. It was noted that a master plan for the whole recreation ground using a landscape architect could be produced prior to any changes to the playground to ensure that the changes were in keeping with a wider scheme.
10. Remembrance Day Parade. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would cover the cost of hiring the Burgess Hill Marching Band at the Remembrance Day service at a cost of £150.
11. Provision of a bin at the Droveaway. It was **agreed** that a bin would be provided, the rugby club to make a donation of £200.
12. Finance matters
 - a) The bank reconciliation for July was **agreed**.
 - b) Payments totalling £11,586.66 covered by cheque numbers 3019033 to 301939 were **approved**
 - c) It was **agreed** that the council look into the cost of purchasing a colour printer compared to leasing a colour model.
13. Correspondence

P1 Parish conference Lewes District 11 October -Clerk to attend
P2 SDNP workshops 10 October – Cllr Smith & Orme to attend. The finance meeting of 10 October to be moved to a revised date.
S 11 Footpath 46a – the application to alter the footpath at Lodge Hill has been refused.
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

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman 11 September 2017

Ditchling Parish Council
Expenditure August 2017

Date	Ref	Value (incl vat)
23/07/2017	Barcombe Landscapes	£7,644.00
12/07/2017	AirS	£1,455.60
01/08/2017	Hall hire	£32.00
31/07/2017	Post office counters -stamps	£31.20
08/09/2017	Grass marking paint	£7.69
21/08/2017	Salaries	£2,256.18
28/07/2017	One Drive	£1.99
31/07/2017	LDC Waste removal	£87.00
31/07/2017	SLCC - webinar data protection	£36.00
30/06/2017	Website, monthly maintenance	£35.00
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		£11,586.66