

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 24 April 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Public Participation:

Three members of the public were present

Mr Peter Young of Dowsett Mayhew planning consultants spoke regarding a pre- application submission for an annex at Little Nyes, Beacon Road. The proposal will be for a ground floor annex with no kitchen or laundry facilities, with an office above in the roof space. The applicant gave some background information relating to the need for a separate annex.

James May in his role as Grounds and Community Liaison member of Ditchling Rugby Club addressed the council. He explained that the Rugby Club wished to be transparent in the way that it managed the field as it was converted from an agricultural field to a sports field. The Club are undertaking the various works to meet the conditions specified in the planning permission granted. Drainage and Ecology, Archeology and Tree reports have been commissioned. Treatment for moles is taking place.

The club are working with the cricket club to improve the parking area so that it is suitable for all weathers. ESCC have been consulted regarding drainage ditches and footpath signage.

The club are very aware that there are concerns locally regarding the extra traffic generated and in particular parking. No cars are to be parked in The Drove way or the new car park if built. The Drove way will provide access for emergency vehicles on match days and will need to be kept clear. It is hoped that this can be achieved by signposting and campaigning. It is estimated that 20-25 cars attend each match. The pitch used currently is at Waterhall Road, Brighton.

The club are working with students on the Plumpton Greenkeeping course. Currently the rolling and mowing is being carried out by professionals. It is likely that gates to the field will be upgraded. To encourage wildlife the club are installing loggeries, bat and bird boxes and bee hives. The Rugby Club will not be levelling the land or installing any industrial drainage. The land will drain naturally. No heavy plant will be used. There will be no further development, other than a rugby pitch.

1. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Keeley declared a prejudicial interest in relation to item 5.1
2. Apologies for absence. None
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 March having been circulated, were amended at item 6 and then **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were approved for publication
5. Planning Applications all applications were considered and discussed. Cllr Keeley left the room.

5.1 SDNP/17/00446/HOUS. 65 Lewes Road Ditchling Erection of a detached garage. **Objection-** the proposed garage is close to the road and may be further forward than the building line. Although the property is currently well screened there is no information in the application regarding future screening. Cllr Keeley returned to the meeting.

5.2 SDNP/17/01358/FUL. Land adjacent Pumping Station Keymer Road Ditchling. Proposal for 40 space public car park to be constructed on a small agricultural field including provision for cycle stands x 3 and partial removal and replanting of hedgerow at Keymer Road, Ditchling. **Recommend approval.** This facility is much needed in this part of the village. There is insufficient parking for both residents and visitors to the Ditchling Museum, the Church, The Village Barn & Green, The White Horse Pub and all other local businesses. The emerging Ditchling Street & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan recognizes the importance of supporting the visitor economy (Core policy 5) and encouraging the provision and retention of local shops and community facilities (Core policy 6), protecting and enhancing community infrastructure (Core Policy 7). Policy Trans 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan specifically supports the introduction of a car park in this location. Cllr Jones abstained.

5.3 SDNP/17/01262/HOUS 35 Lewes Road Ditchling. Erection of a single storey rear extension. **No Comment**

5.4 LW/17/0282. St Georges Park Ditchling Road Ditchling Common Ditchling East Sussex
3 free standing site name boards. **No Comment**

5.5 SDNP/17/01706/HOUS 70 East End Lane Ditchling. Erection of a ground floor front extension. **No Comment**

5.6 SDNP/17/01708/HOUS 9 Shirleys Ditchling. Erection of a timber garden building and an extension to the existing poolside paving. **No Comment**

5.7 SDNP/17/01749/HOUS. 62 East End Lane Ditchling. Section 73A Retrospective Application for the insertion of boiler flue through front roof slope. **No Comment**

5.8 SDNP/17/01542/HOUS 10A Shirleys Ditchling. Replacement entrance porch and internal alterations. **No Comment**

6. Recreation Ground. The maintenance contract was considered. It was noted that the grass cutting is not taking place weekly, it was agreed that the contractors would be chased to carry out the work more regularly as per the agreement in place. The Tree Report Survey was considered it was **agreed** that three quotes be sought to carry out the work shown in the Work Schedule of Trees as being urgent or required within three months.
7. South Downs National Park proposed boundary marker. One of the proposed locations for a boundary marker is on the B2112 Ditchling Road south of the Burgess Hill. The SDNPA will be applying for planning permission and highway licenses for all of the proposed boundary markers so there will also be a formal consultation in due course. The SDNPA had asked for any informal comments from the Parish Council on this proposal at this stage. Local residents will be invited to comments as well. It was noted that the Parish Council has already considered locating similar signage at this location and welcomed the initiative from the SDNP. The Parish Council had also been considering a marker near Old Boat Corner on the B2112, and the SDNP will be asked if they are also considering this location.
8. Burial Ground to consider the requirements for a planning application to extend the burial ground. Three quotes had been received, it was **agreed** that a further quote be sought.
9. Finance matters
 - a) The bank reconciliation for March 17 was **agreed**
 - b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £14,218.80 covered by cheque numbers 301882 to 301899 were **approved**.
 - c) The budget comparison report was reviewed with no comments
 - d) It was **agreed** that £40,000 be transferred into the NSI account, and that the balance in the current account should remain below £75,000.
 - e) To consider banking arrangements. It was **agreed** that these would be unchanged for now.

10. Correspondence P1 to consider a request for verge-side posts at 40 Lewes Road. It was **agreed** that ESCC highways as the owners of the verge would be contacted and asked to build the verge back-up.
11. Written & verbal reports by representatives.
 Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Ingham – none
 Ditchling Pavilion Club –Cllr Smith- none, it was noted the was still a considerable amount of rubbish behind the Pavilion.
 Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson. The AGM is to take place on Weds 26 April at 7.30pm
 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – Cllrs Mc Beth and Madden- nothing to report

The meeting moved into a closed session. No decisions were made.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman 8 May 2017

**Ditchling Parish Council
 Expenditure April 2017**

Date	Ref	Value (incl vat)
05/04/2017	Express Drainage drains at Pavilion	£1,740.00
01/04/2017	Edge IT Systems	£36.00
01/04/2017	East Sussex ALC subscription	£630.53
01/04/2017	St Peter & St James Charitable Trust	£375.00
01/04/2017	Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity	£200.00
01/04/2017	Ditchling, Streat, Westmeston PCC	£400.00
24/04/2017	Ditchling, Streat, Westmeston sports	£150.00
24/03/2017	LDC dog bin /wheelie bin	£371.80
22/04/2017	ESCC Lighting repair & supply	£5,342.80
24/04/2017	Salaries	£1,834.59
24/04/2017	Clerks transport	£62.45
24/04/2017	One Drive	£1.99
17/04/2017	Tree Survey	£756.00
11/04/2017	Groundwork - return of grant	£1,008.96
01/04/2017	Hall hire	£32.00
20/04/2017	LDC maintenance	£1,043.26
07/04/2017	BT	£166.81
10/04/2017	Refreshments	£29.48
10/04/2017	Bin liners	£2.13
31/03/2017	Website, monthly maintenance	£35.00
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		£14,218.80

