

# Ditchling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 27 March 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Public Participation:

Nine members of the public were present

Mrs Macmillan, the applicant, spoke in support of planning application 4.3. She explained the plans for the farm and that tourism based diversification would enhance the farm and local environment. Pre-application advice had been sought from the SDNP and all recommendations from the park authority had been followed.

The Chair of the Ditchling Society spoke in relation to the planning application SDNP/17/01024/FUL discussed at the meeting of 13 March 17. It was noted that the Parish Council had been in contact with the planning officer dealing with the application.

1. Declarations of Interest: None.
2. Apologies for absence Cllr Guggenheim; unavailable
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 March having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Planning Applications all applications were considered and discussed
  - 4.1 SDNP/17/01023/HOUS 3 Beacon Road Replacement of roof with extended pitch roof, loft conversion and installation of rear dormer and two roof lights, installation of side window. **No comment**
  - 4.2 SDNP/17/00600/FUL Field North of Clayton Road. Section 73A retrospective application for The erection of storage structure. **Objection.** The storage structure is unsuitable in this location. The design is poor. This structure represents and incursion into the strategic gap between Ditchling and Clayton.
  - 4.3 SDNP/17/01224/FUL Fourfields Farm Dumbrells Court Road Ditchling Proposed campsite for 30 tent pitches for use between April - September each year, Erection of 20 log cabins for camping 11 months of the year, erection of Farm Shop/Cafe, erection of 4 washroom and toilet blocks, creation of a Car Park, formation of a New Access and Track, use of a Parcel of land by the Outdoors Project and a Proposed Soft Landscaping Scheme. **Recommend approval** (1 against, 2 abstentions, 7 for). In accordance with the Emerging Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan The Parish Council supports appropriate expansion, development and diversification of local rural enterprises. (Biz4), and recommends approval  
subject to:  
Provision of additional soft landscaping and planting around the café building and campsite to reduce the visual impact. That the new access track is completed before all 20 log cabins are in place, and that the track is bunded to reduce the visual impact from South View. That there is no additional external lighting on the service buildings ie washroom, shop and café.
  - 4.4 Ditchling. Creation of an outdoor equestrian riding arena. **No comment**

- 4.5 SDNP/17/01167/HOUS/LIS 11 High Street Ditchling Removal of the north-east wall fronting the road, addition of folding sliding gates to form gated parking area, replacement front door, replacement side gate, sash windows fronting the road to be refurbished, modern window and opening removed and made good, external boarding made good to match existing **Objection-** the widening of the vehicular access and the detail of the proposed gate across the access are inappropriate in this location and would be detrimental to the character of the surrounding area.
- 4.6 LW/17/0194 Land Adjacent To St Mary's Care Home St Georges Park Ditchling Road. The development of care home, day centre and assisted living buildings with associated landscaping and parking. **No comment**
5. Neighbourhood Plan and NP Projects. The project steering group are working through the consultant's advice, as amended by Amy Tyler-Jones of SDNPA. The consultant flagged up a number of issues, with one critical item: the statutory consultation list issued by the SDNPA in spring last year had omitted Natural England from the list. Draft plans have been sent to Natural England for their comments, and they have 6 weeks to reply. It was noted that the SDNP local plan should be published by September.
6. Recreation Ground. It was noted that that the quotation from Express Drainage had been approved and the work had been completed. The chairman suspended standing orders to allow Ms Evatt to speak regarding the very comprehensive report she had produced on the play park with a number of suggestions for improvements. It was noted that the area of the playground could be extended marginally, but would be limited by the cricket pitch boundary. Access could be improved with better paths. Some of the equipment was in need of replacing. It was understood that the Parish Council would source grant funding and would also allocate up to £15,000 of its own reserves to improvements. It was **agreed** that ROSPA would be contacted to assist with drawing up a site plan. Standing orders were reinstated.
7. Lighting to consider the quotation for 7 Lewes Road It was **agreed** that a separate supply pillar, be installed at a cost of £1,439.82 and that the lantern be repaired or replaced. The lamp post at East Gardens seems to be tilting.
8. Parish Council email addresses with gov.uk domain. It was **agreed** that 12 addresses be purchased for a cost of £214.56 per annum.
9. Adoption of the protocol on Pre-application. It was **agreed** that the document would be sent to the SDNP and LDC for comment before adoption.
10. Finance matters
- a) To receive the bank reconciliation for February was **agreed**.
  - b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £8,474.48 covered by cheque numbers 301867 to 301881 were **approved**.
11. Annual Parish Meeting to agree arrangements 10<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 in the upper hall. It was **agreed** that flyers would be produced giving information on the proposed car park planning application. It was **agreed** that the flyer would also be available at the Post Office and other local businesses.
12. Correspondence The list having been circulated prior to the meeting

P1 to consider the request for a grant of £400 from Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston PCC. The request was **granted**. It was **agreed** that a request would be required every year, there would be no automatic payment of grants.

P2 to consider the letter from the SDNP re application SDNP/17/01358/FUL. Noted

P3- to consider siting a banner on the hedge at the recreation ground and £150 grant to the Village Sports Day. The request was **granted**.

P4- Community Speedwatch meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> April 6pm at Lewes Police Station. Cllr McBeth & Cllr Robinson to attend.

13. Written & verbal reports by representatives.

Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Ingham. It was noted that the AGM would be held on 5 April. The Ditchling Charity Ball is to be held on 10 June. The committee are seeking prizes to auction.

Ditchling Pavilion Club –Cllr Smith

Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson. It was noted that the recent newcomer's evening had been very successful. There is a meeting of the Village Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – Cllrs Mc Beth and Madden.

Minutes from the last meeting will be available soon.

East Sussex Highways meeting- Cllr Robinson- this has been very useful. We have been informed that the broken sign at the crossroads will be replaced after more than 3 years and the highway steward is looking into other issues raised.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

<b>Ditchling Parish Council</b>		
<b>Expenditure March 2017</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Value (incl vat) £</b>
01/03/2017	Ditchling Village Hall rent & electricity	53.30
27/03/2017	Salaries	1,809.20
28/02/2017	Lewis & Co Planning Consultants	1,800.00
28/02/2017	GTA Civils drainage consultants	780.00
31/01/2017	Copier	55.36
08/03/2017	Streetlight Repairs	2,493.94
14/03/2017	Tractor glass	27.60
10/03/2017	Cable	2.89
14/03/2017	Replacement Bench	697.00
19/03/2017	Poster board	19.20
20/03/2017	APM posters	44.40
17/03/2017	SLCC Training	41.4
07/03/2017	Ground Anchors	69.95
21/03/2017	SDNP Planning fee	292.50
28/02/2017	Website	35.00
28/02/2017	Postage	0.75
09/01/2017	One drive	1.99
09/02/2017	Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance	250.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,474.48</b>

