

Ditchling Parish Council

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

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Jones, Guggenheim, Keeley, Orme, Smith, Leaver, the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner & the Deputy Clerk Mr Derek Blackhall

Public Participation:

Two members of the public were present. A resident asked when the new car park was expected to be operational, whether parking restrictions in Lodge Hill Lane were likely and whether the rumours regarding construction of a house close to the new rugby pitch were true. The chairman was able to respond that it was hoped that the car park would be opened during 2018. That a consultation into the possibility of implementing yellow lines in Lodge Hill Lane was to commence in September 2018 and that the rumours had no foundation.

A resident spoke to object to planning application 5.4 as a representative of the Ditchling Society raising concerns over position, scale, and design. The planning application is inconsistent. The roof lights will result in light pollution contrary to the dark skies policy. The site plans do not show the new house on the site. The resident also asked whether there were any plans to restrict parking in the car park at Ditchling Village Hall.

1. Declarations of Interest: None.
2. Apologies for absence. Cllr Ingham working, Cllr Robinson unavailable.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 October having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman
4. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 6 November having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
5. Planning applications
 - 5.1 SDNP/17/05239/LIS & SDNP/17/05238/HOUS 1 North End Ditchling. Internal & external alterations. **No comment**
 - 5.2 SDNP/17/05381/FUL The Bull 2 High Street Ditchling. Section 73A retrospective application for amendment to extension at rear, changes to proposed elevations and minor changes to floor plan. **No comment**
 - 5.3 SDNP/17/05630/HOUS 94 North End Ditchling. Proposed single-storey rear extension, proposed front porch extension, internal and external alterations (amendments to application SDNP/17/02704/HOUS). **No comment.**
 - 5.4 SDNP/17/05211/FUL. Court Farm Keymer Road Ditchling. Erection of a feed storage barn. **Objection**, the applicant states that the barn is required to store feed and bedding to service the calving facilities on site. However, there are no cattle or calves on site and so the purpose of the building has not been proven. There has been no agricultural need established for a feed shed to service calves which are not present, and local evidence points to them having never been present on site. The application is incomplete, there is no site plan showing all of the buildings on site. This application represents incremental development in the strategic gap. The Council would expect this application to be called in by the SDNP. It is recommended that an article 4 Direction is made at this site.
 - 5.5 SDNP/17/05816/HOUS Little Nyes 44 Beacon Road Ditchling. Erection of a home gym. **No comment**
 - 5.6 SDNP/17/05026/LIS 9 South Street Ditchling Replacement of 2 doors at the front and one window at the rear, installation of secondary glazing on one window. **No comment**

6. a) It was **resolved** that the recommendations of the Finance Committee be adopted and the precept for the year 2018/19 be £84,292, amounting to an increase of £1,653 or 2%, the budget for 2018/19 was adopted.
b) It was **resolved** that a new internal auditor be sought for the year 2018/19.
7. Highways – traffic working party proposals for Spatham Lane, it was noted that the budget includes a £2,500 sum for matched funding contributions to changes in speed limits to 40 mph. This will be a joint initiative with Westmeston Parish Council. It was noted that a councillor from WSCC has attended the working group meeting, improved signage on the A23 to encourage traffic to take other routes and not pass through Ditchling is also required. A response has been received from the ESCC parking team regarding yellow lines in Lodge Hill Lane. The consultation into yellow lines in Lodge Lane will not commence until September 2018 and will take 12-18 months, so if there are no objections the lines could be painted in early 2020.
8. South Downs Local Plan – to consider comments to submit to the SDNP. It was noted that the consultation period had ended. Cllr Orme submitted comments during the consultation period with the purpose of strengthening Policy SD4.3 so that it would read. *The individual identity of settlements and the integrity of predominantly open and undeveloped land between settlements will not be undermined. When considering development proposals in gaps between existing settlements, preservation of landscape character will take precedence over other policies.* It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would also contact the SDNP to recommend this amendment.
9. Parish magazine – the very positive feedback following the release of issue one has been welcomed. A number of organisations have volunteered to write an article for edition two.
10. Proposed new car park- lease & other legal work update. The draft lease has been sent to Mrs Kalinin for comment. There is an overage clause which comes to an end on 21 Jan 18. It is recommended that the lease is not signed until this date in order that the legal work is minimised. The S106 agreement has progressed but it would be sensible if this too, was delayed until January, a time extension has been discussed with the SDNP and solicitors.
11. Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr Lockhart Mummery has begun the examination of the plan, and has issued the following statement:
I am now able to confirm that, although the Examination of the NP will be more complex than originally contemplated, I do not consider it necessary to hold a hearing. If further queries arise as I proceed, I am confident that they are likely to be capable of being dealt with in writing. It was contemplated that the Examination would require 5-7 days of my time. Bearing in mind the time already spent, it may be appropriate to allow for up to 10 days. I will aim to issue a draft Report, for fact-checking purposes only, to the authorities and the QB, by 15 December 2017.
12. Format of Annual Parish Meeting 2018- It was agreed that the Chairman and the District Councillors would write their speeches by the end of the year so that they can be included in edition two of the Parish Council Magazine. This will leave the evening free for a guest speaker and questions from members of the public.
13. New play equipment and recreation ground master plan – to consider the responses from Landscape Architects contacted. It was agreed that both of the architects would be invited to meet with the Chair of the Recreation Ground and Cllr Keeley who would then make a recommendation regarding appointment.

14. Finance matters

- a) The bank reconciliation for October was agreed
- b) Payments totalling £7,806.60 were **approved**
- c) It was agreed that a post box for the Parish Office and Parish Hall would be purchased.
- d) It was agreed that portrait photographs for the Parish website & magazine would be purchased, to be shot on 18 December 2018
- e) It was agreed to subscribe to Action In Rural Sussex at £50 pa
- f) The rent increase for the Parish Office in accordance with the lease was noted.
- g) It was noted the new email addresses for Councillors and staff would be used from 1 December 2017

15. Correspondence. It was **agreed** that the Conservation Volunteers be paid a grant of £75.

Lighting of the Beacon 11 November 2018- it was **agreed** that Ditchling should light a Beacon on this historic occasion, and that Lodge Hill would be a preferred location, subject to the landowner's approval.

West Sussex Waste Sites – The minutes from the WSCC Environmental and Community Services Select Committee of 15 November 2017 to consider measures to restrict larger trailers and a residents' permit/ID scheme to prevent users from outside West Sussex were available. It was noted that the Clerk had contacted WSCC and no further action can be taken until a response has been received.

It was **agreed** that a grant of £50 be paid to the Sussex CPRE

16. Written & verbal reports by representatives.

Village Hall Management Committee – There will be a Jazz afternoon on Sunday 3rd December. The work to the gardens at the village hall is now complete. The hall will be having a Christmas Tree this year.

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 next meeting will be held on 4th December.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman 18 December 2017

Ditchling Parish Council
Expenditure Nov 2017

Date	Ref	Value (incl vat)
17/10/2017	British Legion	£17.00
12/11/2017	Burgess Hill Marching Band	£100.00
10/10/2017	S Woodley ground maintenance	£1,960.00
01/11/2017	Hall hire	£32.00
20/11/2017	Email hosting	£16.18
27/11/2017	Parish office rent	£55.90
21/08/2017	Salaries	£2,256.78
27/11/2017	First Aid Kit	£20.00
24/11/2017	Viking Direct envelopes	£4.40
30/10/2017	SOS Systems Ltd	£1,293.34
14/11/2017	Parkers Building Supplies	£57.00
10/11/2017	Surrey Hills Solicitor	£1,959.00
30/11/2017	Website, monthly maintenance	£35.00
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		£7,806.60

