

# Ditchling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall, Lewes Road, on Monday 30 October 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Jones, Guggenheim, Keeley, Orme, Leaver, Robinson & the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner

### Public Participation:

Two members of the public were present. A resident presented plans for a proposed planning application at the Cotterling's Coach House.

1. Declarations of Interest: None.
2. Apologies for absence. Cllr Ingham unavailable, Cllr Madden unavailable, Cllr Smith unavailable.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 September having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 October having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
5. Highways – SLR Meeting & Spatham Lane. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would submit an application for conservation style yellow lines in Lodge Hill Lane to be implemented once the new car park was completed. The traffic data collected in 2014 has been reviewed, it was **agreed** that a feasibility study to look at implementing a reduced speed limit in Spatham Lane, to be financed from council funds would be a first step towards improving traffic flows in the three Beacon Parishes. Following the Strengthening Local Partnerships (SLR) meeting with ESCC officers, where the council was advised that the cost of reducing a speed limit on a stretch of road was approx. £10,000 to include all legal costs, discussions had taken place with neighbouring parishes regarding matched funding. The ESCC matched funding budget has been fully utilised in the current year, but new funds will be available in April 2018.

Maria Caulfield and Cllr Osbourne, the Ditchling County Councillor had attended the meeting called by Cllr Jones in his capacity as a District Councillor to discuss traffic issues. Following this meeting there was some discussions on whether some lanes could be classified as quiet lanes. The quiet lane policy is very successful in other counties but ESCC do not support quiet lanes. It was considered that the volume of traffic in and around the Beacon Parishes would mean that lanes did not meet the criteria to be designated quiet lanes. There will be a second meeting on 10 November at 9am. It is hoped that this group can provide a clear remit for a more formal group to make proposals that eventually feed into the SLR process. It was proposed by Cllr Orme and seconded by Cllr Guggenheim that the joint working group be asked to report back to the Parish Council setting out its proposed remit and membership. The PC could then consider how best to take the initiative forward in consultation with Westmeston and Streat Parish Councils. The proposal was **agreed** with two abstentions.

6. South Downs Local Plan – the pre-submission consultation runs until 21 November. Comments on the plan should be submitted to the SDNP Details are on the parish council website. It was noted that much of the document consists of strategic sites with maps. The policy on settlement gaps is a little vague and could be strengthened. It was decided that comments should be considered that the next Parish Council meeting and councillors should prepare comments for inclusion in a response from the whole council.
7. Parish magazine – the latest draft has been circulated. It was considered that the magazine was of a high standard and the council look forward to the first edition being distributed. The clerk confirmed that St Georges Park residents were included on the distribution list.

8. Transfer of Village Hall status. The original documents are now with the solicitor and the process is moving ahead.
9. Proposed new car park- the solicitor has produced a draft lease, the clerk is clarifying certain points, the next stage is to send the draft lease to the landowner for approval. The clerk is in regular contact with the landowner.
10. Neighbourhood Plan – the QC appointed to carry out the independent examination has not started his examination, he has instead come back with a number of points to be clarified first Edwina Rowling is working on the document.
11. New play equipment and recreation ground master plan – six landscape architects have been contacted, with two providing fee proposals to date. It was **agreed** that the remaining landscape architects contacted would be chased as it would be helpful to have a further proposal.
12. Finance matters
  - a) The bank reconciliation for August was **agreed**.
  - b) Payments totalling £5,041.89 covered by cheque numbers 301940 to 301953 were **approved**
  - c) The Budget Comparison Report to 30 September was received.
13. Correspondence. P1 It was noted that the Parish Council has written to Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School, to confirm their support of the change of age range from 2-11 years.
14. Written & verbal reports by representatives.
  - Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Madden -none
  - Ditchling Pavilion Club –Cllr Smith had attended the AGM; the committee were supportive of the idea of a master plan for the whole recreation ground.
  - 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 8.55m

Chairman November 2017

**Ditchling Parish Council  
Expenditure Oct 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Value (incl vat)</b>
06/09/2017	S Woodley	£465.66
10/10/2017	BT	£143.50
06/09/2017	SSALC	£96.00
30/10/2017	Surrey Hills Solicitor	£600.00
01/10/2017	Hall hire	£32.00
30/10/2017	Hall grant	£1,500.00
30/10/2017	Parish office rent	£171.25
21/08/2017	Salaries	£2,256.18
28/07/2017	One Drive	£1.99
30/10/2017	Mileage	£9.90
30/10/2017	Voice recorder	£29.89
14/08/2017	Stationery	£17.98
07/08/2017	Key cut	£8.00
30/06/2017	Website, monthly maintenance	£35.00
		<u>£5,367.35</u>