

# Ditchling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall, Lewes Road, on Monday 20 August 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Smith, Leaver, Madden, Robinson, Ingham, Jones, Guggenheim, Farrands, Robinson, Keeley, the Clerk Mrs Michelle Warner & the Deputy Clerk Mr. Derek Blackhall

### Public Participation:

Six members of the public were present. The applicant spoke in support of item 4.1. The applicant's daughter's family will be living in part of the existing property and the proposed extension, so that three generations will occupy the property. The architect for item 4.1 spoke in support of the project which will adhere to the sustainable principles already incorporated at the property. A resident of Lewes Road spoke regarding item 19, explaining that it was often impossible or dangerous to exit her driveway because of parked cars on the opposite side of the road. Lewes Road has become effectively a one-way street. Further bollards along the road would prevent further erosion of the verge. Suggestions to improve safety would be welcomed. The second resident spoke regarding parking along the Lewes Road, it was noted that the markings on the speed bumps had faded so that they could barely be seen. Drivers exceeded 20 mph. Parking on the verges was becoming more common.

1. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Keeley declared an interest in item 4.3, as she is the applicant.
2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Orme, delayed returning from London.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 August having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Planning applications
  - 4.1 SDNP/18/03751/HOUS Single storey extension to east 83 Lewes Road Ditchling. **No comment.**
  - 4.2 SDNP/18/03752/HOUS Proposed single-storey front and rear extensions, and proposed front porch extension (amendment to SDNP/17/05630/HOUS). 94 North End Ditchling. **No comment**
  - 4.3 SDNP/18/04186/TCA 2 x maples - pollard and remove dead and broken branches - front 1 x Maple hedge - trim - front 1 x Boundary hedge - trim mixed hedge - side 1 x Conifer hedge - trim - rear Trees overhand Lewes Road.65 Lewes Road Ditchling. **No comment**
  - 4.4 SDNP/18/03854/LIS Proposed removal of existing post in living room and bathroom, and replaced with an oak/pine clad steel beam and post arrangement. 9 South Street Ditchling. **No comment**
  - 4.5 SDNP/18/03710/LIS & SDNP/18/03709/HOUS Removal of existing wall to the south, in front of the existing garage 11 High Street Ditchling. **Objection**, the widening of the vehicular access remains inappropriate in this location creating an overly open frontage on the High Street and would be detrimental to the character of the surrounding Ditchling Conservation area
  - 4.6 LW/18/0286 Section 73A retrospective application for ground mounted solar panels installed in April 2014 and frame mounted panels installed in December 2015. Lone Oak Farm Spatham Lane Westmeston. **No comment**
  - 4.7 LW/18/0606 Change of use and minor external changes to the dwelling to provide 8 bedroom guest accommodation, demolition of adjacent vineyard store and Upper Furzeffield Fragbarrow Lane Ditchling erection of replacement dwelling together with provision of associated landscaping and parking. **Recommend approval**, the Ditchling Street & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan supports the development of Ditchling as a 'gateway' attraction for visitors to the National Park, this will bring benefits for the year-round economic viability of shops and services for the use of current and future residents. (3.6.1). The guest accommodation to serve Ridgeview Wine Estate is welcomed.
5. Parish magazine – articles are required for the November edition. Cllr Smith will produce an update on the Ditchling Recreation Ground masterplan. Cllr Madden has sourced two articles.
6. New play equipment and recreation ground master plan. The working party have met with the landscape architect and corrections have been made to the masterplan along with some additions. Meeting notes have been circulated. The clerk confirmed that the upper and lower halls were available on Saturday 12 & 19 of January and the Pavilion was available every Saturday morning. It was noted that it may be preferable to run an all-day event at the village hall to allow as many residents to attend as possible. The clerk will book the venues with 12 January at the Village Hall and 19 January at the Pavilion being preferred. Questionnaires will be available at the event. An online form may also be available.
7. New car park- the clerk reported that there had been no response from the landowner's solicitor regarding the amended wording to clarify access arrangements.
8. Traffic and noise at Dumbrells Court Road and events at Macs Farm. A copy of the premises licence had been circulated. There is no limit to the number of events held. A copy of the decision notice in respect of planning application SDNP/17/01224/FUL. It was noted that a number of conditions should be met before further camping activity takes place at Fourfields Farm. It was reported that the enforcement officer from LDC will no longer be involved and enforcement has now passed to the SDNPA officers. Tim Slaney, head of planning, is aware of the issues. It was noted that access for both

camping and events through Dumbrells Court Road was not appropriate and had led to unacceptable noise and traffic on the road. It was noted that the location of the farm shop had changed from the planning application. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would write to Tim Slaney explaining the concerns of residents. It was noted that neighbours should be encouraged to complain in writing if they wanted their views to be considered by the SDNPA.

9. Neighbourhood Plan – the list circulated allocating roles to councillors was amended and **agreed**. It was noted that non-councillors could be drafted in to assist with specific projects.
10. Beacon Parishes Traffic Group, it was noted that parking problems in Lewes Road should be added to the brief to be considered by the traffic consultant once appointed. It was noted that it was not the school traffic that was especially problematic, but the popularity of The Bull at evenings and weekends had added to the parking problems. It was noted that imposing restrictions in one area simply pushed the traffic to a new location creating traffic problems elsewhere. A holistic approach to the whole village was required. This issue will be raised at the next SLR meeting. It was noted that additional parking capacity could be created at the recreation ground.
11. Bridleway from Eastern Road, Wivelsfield to St Georges improvements joint project with Wivelsfield Parish Council. It was **agreed** that the council would work with Wivelsfield Parish Council to improve bridleway which is for much of the year impassable and would be willing to share costs. It was **agreed** that a meeting with East Sussex Highways and both councils should be arranged. It was noted that the bridleways are an important local amenity.
12. It was **agreed** that one new noticeboard would be ordered at a cost of £525. The colour of the surround to be discussed with the property owners on whose wall the noticeboard is sited.
13. New fencing, chain & padlock at the area around the gas/electric sub stations at The Drove, Ditchling. The quotation to fit a new gate and posts and replace the sheep fencing and posts for £1,035 was **agreed**.
14. Lighting the Beacon 11 November 2018. The checklist was reviewed. It was noted that the brazier will be located at the highest point of Lodge Hill but set back slightly to improve stability. Wood for the brazier and a chief- marshal are required.
15. The Memorial Policy was **adopted**.
16. The Grant Policy was not adopted, it will be amended and re-circulated.
17. To consider three quotations received for tree works as required per the tree survey carried out at Ditchling Recreation Ground. Three quotations for tree works were obtained, it was **agreed** that company 1 should be given the work at a cost of £2,415.
18. Finance matters
  - a) The bank reconciliation for July was **agreed** and has been authorised by Cllr Guggenheim
  - b) Payments totalling £7,539.64 were **approved**.
19. Correspondence

P1 Post lighting the beacon refreshments; it was noted that the History Society are kindly making the arrangements.

P2 Questions for the Chief Constable – questions need to be with SSALC by 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

P3- Lewes Road Resident- Lewes road parking and damage to the verge. It was noted that improved parking at the recreation ground and pathways may ease school traffic. It was noted that the traffic group will be asked to include Lewes Road parking in their brief. It was noted that there are other locations in the village where the parking is just as problematic if not worse.
20. Written & verbal reports by representatives
  - a. Village Hall Management Committee – none
  - b. Ditchling Pavilion Club – none.
  - c. Ditchling Village Association – none
  - d. Lewes District Association of Local Councils –none

It was noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult for new residents to find a GP.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman

**Ditchling Parish Council**  
**Expenditure Aug 2018**

14/08/2018	Currys PC World	249.98
14/08/2018	Blinds Direct	58.69
20/08/2018	BT	129.48
20/08/2018	East Sussex Highways	84.00
20/08/2018	Simon Woodley -grounds	431.40
20/08/2018	Salaries	2,200.71
20/08/2018	Hall hire	32.00
20/08/2018	Easycopiers	42.00
20/08/2018	Fasthosts	14.39
20/08/2018	Website, monthly maintenance	35.00
20/08/2018	One Drive	1.99
20/08/2018	Barcombe Landscapes	4,260.00
		<hr/>
		<b>7,539.64</b>