

# Ditchling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall, Lewes Road, on Monday 29 January 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Jones (arrived 7.50pm), Guggenheim, Keeley, Orme, Smith, Robinson, Ingham, Madden, the Clerk, Mrs. M. Warner & the Deputy Clerk Mr. Derek Blackhall

Daniel Rodrigues from Southern Water attended to give brief presentation on unflushable items. This is an educational awareness project and has been running since 2015. Items which should not be flushed down a toilet because they will block sewers are wipes (even those that state they are flushable) and cotton buds. Fat should be disposed of in a bin and never down the sink, even if plenty of hot water and soap is used as this mixture combines to form a hard residue further along in the sewer system.

### Public Participation:

Four members of the public were present, no member of the public wished to speak.

1. Declarations of Interest: None.
2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Leaver, on holiday
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 January having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman
4. Co-option of a new member to the Council. Cllr Robinson proposed that Paul Farrands be co-opted onto the council, seconded Cllr Keeley. Passed unanimously. Cllr Farrands signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.
5. Planning applications
  - 5.1 SDNP/17/06333/HOUS Part retrospective application for retention of greenhouse and erection of domestic outbuilding Pathways, Farm Lane. **No Comment**
  - 5.2 SDNP/17/06480/HOUS Proposed first floor rear extension and two storey side extension. 38 Common Lane Ditchling. **No Comment**
6. Parish magazine –the deputy clerk advised that there was an excess of content for issue 2 and so some articles will be kept for edition 3. The magazine had gone to print on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January.
7. Proposed new car park. The lease has not been signed. The landowner has been chased several times, she is waiting to hear from her solicitor. The S106 cannot progress until the lease has been signed. The SDNPA have given a further time extension of two weeks. The importance of progressing the lease has been communicated to the landowner. It was noted that the continued parking on Lodge Hill Lane has reduced the verges to mud.
8. Neighbourhood Plan update The Clerk, Edwina Rowling, Mike Burr and Julie Middleton are working with Amy Tyler Jones at the SDNP to amend the plan in accordance with the independent examiner's report. Lewes DC have advised that the referendum date will be sometime in April, with the document to be adopted in May.
9. New play equipment and recreation ground master plan – no progress to date, a meeting with the appointed consultant to be arranged.
10. SLR Meeting feedback including Spatham Lane. The SLR meeting had taken place earlier in the day. The depression in the High Street outside the 'Old Butchers' had been scheduled for repair. No other dips/potholes in the High Street were scheduled for repair. Cllr Robinson noted that the drains are blocked in the High Street and could these be cleared while the road was closed to repair the large dip. Ian Johnson the ESCC Traffic & Safety manager had reviewed the speed data in Spatham Lane from November 2013, which showed that average speeds on the road were in the mid- thirties, this meant that a 40-mph limit would not be suitable and could increase average speeds. Rob Mills from Westmeston PC had been speaking with ESCC Road Safety regarding collecting further data, the costing is £400.00 per monitoring site. If more monitors are used there will be a discount. Advice received from ESCC Highways, suggested that three monitors would provide a good range of data and the cost would be no more £1200.00. Cllr Orme proposed that Ditchling PC meet half of this cost which is expected to be £600, Cllr Guggenheim seconded. Passed unanimously. The poor road surface on Spatham Lane has been discussed; there was considerable wear and ruts on the edge of the road. ESCC Highways were responsible for the management of the tarmac area only and the problem had been referred to the Asset Management Team, who can repair the ruts with type 1 or soil. Wooden bollards in the verge at the junction on Spatham Lane and the Lewes Road had been suggested. Rob Mills had reported that "wooden bollards placed in the verge at the

*bend on Lewes Road near the junction with Spatham Lane appeared to have slowed traffic as there had been no incidents since".* Such work can be carried out under licence. Bollards would have to be set back 450mm from the highway. Bollards at the bends on Spatham Lane may also help to slow traffic.

Maria Caulfield MP has begun a petition for quiet lanes in Sussex. Given that one of the criteria for a quiet lane is there must be a low volume of traffic, very few lanes, and certainly none in Ditchling would qualify. ESCC has always resisted quiet lanes, and Sussex is the only county with no quiet lanes. Members referred to the SDNPA local plan which addresses highways issues, but is generally concentrating on a sense of place, with different types of road surface/colour. The chairman will attend a surgery with Maria Caulfield to discuss. It was suggested that the Parish Council could employ a traffic consultant to develop a traffic management plan for Spatham Lane. The TRO required in Keymer Road was discussed at the SLR meeting, but no further progress made.

It was noted that 88 Folders Lane has now been demolished and work has started on site, the builders have been using Fragbarrow Lane for access. Solicitors for the Winery and the Commoners have confirmed that access must be permitted because the land under development has ancient rights of access.

11. Burial Ground extension – Ecologists report circulated. The project grows more complex and expensive, probably unnecessarily as no dormice have actually been seen. The next stage is to speak with the county archaeologist to see if he has any concerns, and then to put in the planning application
12. Finance matters
  - a) The bank reconciliation for December was **agreed**
  - b) Payments totalling £6,957.04 were **approved**
  - c) A request for a grant of £400 to the PCC in respect of the church clock was **approved**

Correspondence. P1 LDC CIL Bidding Lewes District Council- it was agreed that a bid for funds for the new play equipment would be made, if this project met the required criteria. P3 Mr Cole – horses on footpath, it was noted that horses were permitted on grass verges but not the footpath, it was difficult to see what action could be taken, although signage could be investigated.

13. Written & verbal reports by representatives.

- a. Village Hall Management Committee –the management committee has adopted the new constitution. The legal transfer of the land is not yet complete. The alcohol licence is being renewed.
- b. Ditchling Pavilion Club - Cllr Smith – a meeting to be arranged with Seam Guirey
- c. Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson-the newcomers meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The Village Fayre will take place on 16 June.
- d. Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – Cllrs Mc Beth and Madden-nothing to report.

Cllr Jones advised that the British Legion were hoping to light the Beacon in August, the Parish Council had not previously been advised of this event.

A tulip tree to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dame Vera Lynn will be planted on 20<sup>th</sup> March at 11am, The Lord Lieutenant will attend.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman 12 February 2018

**Ditchling Parish Council**  
**Expenditure Jan 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Value (incl vat)</b>
09/01/2018	BT Phone	£124.40
01/01/2018	Huskisson Browne Landscape reports	£1,500.00
20/01/2018	S Woodley ground maintenance	£700.00
08/01/2018	Easycopiers	£1,800.00
01/01/2018	Hall hire	£16.00
20/01/2018	Fasthosts	£14.39
09/01/2018	Kris Pawlowski photographs	£175.00
27/12/2017	One Drive	£1.99
21/08/2017	Salaries	£2,255.58
01/02/2018	Open Spaces Society	£45.00
12/01/2018	Stationery	£22.68
01/01/2018	SLCC	£165.00
16/01/2018	SALC	£19.20
12/01/2018	Surrey Hills Solicitor	£82.80
30/11/2017	Website, monthly maintenance	£35.00
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		£6,957.04