

Ditchling Parish Council

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

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

Public Participation:

Five members of the public were present.

Lyn Spellman and John Oughton from the Ditchling Horticultural Society addressed the council in respect of item 17.d to request a grant of £2,000 to assist in providing mains water on site. Currently ground water from a deep well in the north-east corner of the allotments is used for irrigation. When the water table is low or when the pump is not working there is no water supply. Testing of the groundwater has shown that E coli bacteria is present in the groundwater. The total cost of installing a mains water supply with two taps on site is £3,884, with the cost being £2,684 to Southern Water to take the supply to the hedge boundary and then £1,200 to run the supply to two taps. The allotment society would be responsible for all ongoing costs. The allotments enjoy 100% occupancy and there are 33 allotment holders which makes up 10% of the Horticultural Society membership. The Society received a £2,000 legacy in the year and intends to use these funds to match fund the works, subject to this being agreed at the AGM on 1 November. The allotment holders will continue to harvest water as much as possible.

Nikki Chapman addressed the council in respect of item 12. The Ditching Charity Ball is taking place on 8 June 2019. The previous 4 balls have raised a total of £63,000 for local charities. The planting of the tulip tree on the village green mean that the marquee if sited, would be of a reduced size. If the marquee was sited on the football pitch there would be plenty of room, the pavilion facilities could be used and the pavilion would receive £1,000 towards its ongoing maintenance program. The marquee would be erected on Weds 5 June and be taken down on Sunday 9 June.

1. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Ingham & Cllr Madden have an interest in item 17.d) as allotment holders. Cllr Smith has an interest in item 17.d) as his spouse is the allotment secretary. Cllr Leaver has an interest in item 4.2 as he is a close neighbour.
2. Apologies for absence. None
- 2a Cllr Smith noted that holding the Charity Ball at the recreation ground would be good for the pavilion. The stoolball club have kindly agreed to move their fixture on 6th June. It was **agreed** that the recreation ground football pitch could be used as a site for the marquee for the charity ball.
- 2b Standing orders were suspended while members asked what provision would be in place at the allotments to prevent water leakage and taps being left on. It was noted that the taps would have an auto-shut-off. Standing orders were resumed. It was noted that it was national planning policy to conserve allotments. Cllr Jones proposed that a grant of £2,000 be made to the Horticultural Society. **Carried** with 5 votes.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 October having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 8th October having been circulated, were **agreed** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Planning applications
 - 4.1 SDNP/18/05111/HOUS. Loft conversion with front dormer for staircase access, and window replacing garage door. 10 Clayton Road Ditchling. **No comment**
 - 4.2 SDNP/18/05265/HOUS Conversion of the existing garage into habitable accommodation together with construction of car-port structure to the side, construction of ground floor extension to the flank wall together with internal and external associated alterations. Lichen House Farm Lane Ditchling. **No comment.**
 - 4.3 Arrangements for SDNPA planning committee in connection with application SDNP/18/04155. Cllr Jones abstained. It was noted that there were now some letters of support on the planning portal although none are from local residents. It was noted that ESCC Highways had objected to the scheme. It was noted that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had written to the planning officer stating that if the planning authority are minded to approve the application then the Secretary of State would wish to consider the application against the call-in policy, however if the authority wish to refuse the application the secretary of State would take no further action. It was noted that the County Ecologist has recommended refusal of the application due to insufficient information. It was noted that LDC has a 3-year housing supply but it falls just short of a 5-year housing supply. There are a number of planning applications coming through and it is expected that a 5-year housing supply will be in place soon.

The application is expected to go before the SDNPA planning committee in January 2019. Three speakers are permitted at the planning meeting it was suggested that the chairman speak on behalf of the council, a representative from the Ditchling Society will speak and an expert in planning or sustainable design could also speak. The application makes many ecological claims which can only be assessed by an expert. The officers report should be available 2-3 weeks before the meeting. The council discussed commissioning a shadow report. It was noted that the SDNPA had a number of in house experts and also members of the planning committee have specific areas of expertise. It was noted that any report prepared for the council on the application could be passed to the case officer at any time and this would be considered in the officer's report. Cllr Smith proposed that an agenda item should be included at the next meeting to commit funds to employ expert consultants. The clerk to obtain quotes in the meantime.

4.4 SDNP/18/05181/HOUS | Proposed two storey rear extension. Re-modelling to the rear and proposed new house facades and roof tiling. | 32 Shirleys Ditchling BN6 8UD. **No comment**

4.5 SDNP/18/04758/HOUS | Formation of box dormer to create additional bedroom and separate shower room with storage in eaves, demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with part glazed extension to the rear of the property. 19 Nevill Cottages Ditchling BN6 8UT. **No comment.**

5. Parish magazine – the November edition has gone to print and is expected to be delivered w/c 5th November. It was noted that the History Project should be thanked for all the hard work that has gone into the street by street village trail detailing the impact of The Great War on Ditchling, in the next edition.
6. New play equipment and recreation ground master plan. There is a meeting with Andrew Ramsay taking place on 30th October. Cllr Smith had put together text for the public exhibition to accompany the drawings and pictures of play equipment and this was circulated.
7. Recreation ground contractors. It was **agreed** that quotes would be sought from at least three contractors to maintain the council grounds when the current contract ends in November.
8. Car park update. There had been no response from the landowner's solicitors, a definitive view on the future of the transaction has been requested, but no response received to date. It was **agreed** that the landowner be contacted directly.
9. Neighbourhood Plan reports, a meeting with the three council chairman is to be arranged.
10. Beacon Parishes Traffic Group. It was agreed that The Project Centre, Brighton be removed from the list of tenderers and Motion Consultants Ltd are asked to provide a quotation.
11. Lighting the Beacon 11 November 2018. Review of checklist. It was noted that a lone rocket could be launched, (subject to insurance being in place). It was noted that The Last Post would be played. There are now a sufficient number of stewards. Stewards are to meet on Friday 9 Nov at 2pm at Lodge Hill.
12. Ditchling Charity Ball 2019- see item 2a
13. Appointment of recruitment sub-committee. The Chairman will interview any candidates with either Cllr Robinson or Cllr Ingham. Trevor Leggo would also be asked to take part in the interview process.
14. Sam Keeley has resigned as a councillor, she made a very positive contribution to the council. There is a vacancy for a member to be co-opted, but only for a period of 6 months as local council elections will be held on 2 May 2019.
15. Opportunities for twinning. It was noted that schools in an area must be compatible.
16. To receive minutes from the Finance Committee and recommendations for the 2019/20 budget. The recommendations were **agreed**. The precept was **agreed** and will be set at £85,978 for the year 2019/20 an increase of 2.73%, subject to the grants budget of £5,000 being adequate to service grants to be requested by 1 December 2018.
17. Finance matters
 - a) The bank reconciliation for September was **agreed** and has been authorised by Cllr Guggenheim
 - b) Payments totalling £9,244.96 were **approved**.
 - c) The quarterly budget report was **agreed**.
 - d) Request from Ditchling Horticultural Society for a £2,000 grant to assist to providing mains water on site. See item 2a
18. Correspondence.

It was noted that permission had been given to include the Ditchling History Project information sheets at the War Memorial.
19. 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

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

Ditchling Parish Council
Expenditure Oct 2018

29/10/2018	Office rent	199.20
29/10/2018	Parkers Building supplies	64.12
29/10/2018	External audit	480.00
29/10/2018	SSALC	72
29/10/2018	BT	126.12
29/10/2018	Simon Woodley -grounds	4,600.00
29/10/2018	Salaries	2,201.11
29/10/2018	Hall hire	32.00
29/10/2018	Uckfield Press	40.80
29/10/2018	Screwfix	55.98
29/10/2018	Fasthosts	20.98
29/10/2018	Dog Bin emptying	280.8
29/10/2018	Burial ground bin	91.00
29/10/2018	Website, monthly maintenance	35.00
29/10/2018	One Drive	3.98
29/10/2018	Easycopiers	42.00
29/10/2018	Planning training event	583.25
29/10/2018	Safety Supply co	16.62
29/10/2018	ESCC Highways feasibility study	300.00
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