

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall, Lewes Road, on Monday 25 February 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Smith, Madden, Guggenheim, Ingram, Farrands, the Clerk Mrs Sarah Mamoany and the Deputy Clerk, Mr Derek Blackhall

Public Participation:

Ten members of the public were present.

SDNP/19/00542/FUL - The Ditchling Society spoke regarding concerns about the application in relation to what a new entrance may lead to in the future at this site, which is on a protected green space in the NP and why the application was being submitted as they will soon need to reapply again as the current temporary application is due to expire. The original planning statement said that no further fencing or lighting would be allowed due to it affecting the appearance of the site.

SDNP/18/06553/FUL – A resident spoke to reiterate comments previously made in relation to concerns about creeping development within the parish and that the Council should do everything they can to object to the application.

1. Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were made.
2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllrs Leaver, Robinson, Jones and Orme.
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th February 2019 were **resolved** by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
4. Planning applications
 - 4.1 SDNP/19/00087/HOUS - Pond View Cottage 10 Boddington's Lane Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8SS Rear extension to house and garage. Erection of shed and associated works. – **The Council felt that the plans available did not show clearly the extent of the extension to the property and therefore it was difficult to comment; and requested the Clerk obtain further information and an extension of time for comments if appropriate.**
 - 4.2 SDNP/19/00543/HOUS - 69A Lewes Road Ditchling BN6 8TY - Formation of carport and reconfiguration of garage storage roof to support photovoltaic array, alterations to south elevation and lobbied entrance – **No objection.**
 - 4.3 SDNP/19/00542/FUL - Clayton Road Ditchling East Sussex - Creation of new access with double gates and hard standing off the Clayton Road for Ditchling RFC – **The Council object to this application on the grounds that it is contrary to the planning conditions noted on the temporary permission granted in February 2017 (SDNP/16/05154/FUL) which was granted for a limited period expiring either upon four years from the date of this notice of permission or after a period of two years from the first use of the site as a sports pitch, whichever occurs sooner.**
 - 4.4 SDNP/19/00727/HOUS - Gospels Farm, Gospels Farm Bungalow Beacon Road Ditchling BN6 8XB - Proposed double pitched, hipped roof porch. – **No objection.**
 - 4.5 SDNP/18/06553/FUL - The Beacon Nurseries Beacon Road Ditchling BN6 8XB - Demolition of existing horticultural barn and erection of new single storey dwelling with associated landscaping. The application was discussed further by the Council following their decision to object on the basis that it undermines the NP and that it could potentially set a precedence for further applications to be put forward. Subsequently, Lewes District Council had confirmed the application would be recommended for approval by the case officer to the Planning Committee on the 13th March 2019. Cllr Smith had spoken with a planning consultant who advised in his view that the application should be turned down and provided a quote for £500 to produce a written report of objection. **The Council resolved (under Section S137) to instruct D H Stallard to write a report on behalf of the Council, as it was felt the Council did not have the detailed planning knowledge themselves and the report could also be used in the future should any similar applications be submitted.** The Clerk was requested to contact Tim Slaney, SDNP to ask for his opinion on the application.
5. Parish magazine. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that further articles were needed before the deadline of 22nd March. Cllr Ingram advised she would produce an article on defibrillators and that the Ditchling Village Association would be approached about a report on the Newcomers event to be held in March.
6. New play equipment and recreation ground master plan Cllr Smith reported that the consultation was attended by 133 people and over 300 individual comments were received on the feedback forms. These comments were mainly positive with a few negative responses and some concerns from neighbours of the Recreation Ground being noted. The top five projects were extending the childrens play area, a new all-weather sports pitch (although floodlighting was not popular), creation of a wild flower meadow, upgrading and extending the Pavilion and enhanced access to the childrens play area from Farm Lane. In relation to the equipment, the zipwire, basket seat swings, rope dome, climbing rock and wall, titan

carousel, ball court and table tennis were the most popular on the list of 43 items. It was noted that the drawings on display were incorrect with regard to the size of the play area, which was shown encroaching onto the cricket pitch. The Council agreed that they should focus on one project as the work would not all be done in one stage, funding was required and at the next meeting a decision will be made on the first project.

7. To consider appointment of grounds contractor for 2019/20 The Clerk had circulated a report with costings from contractors and the Council **resolved** to instruct Barcombe Landscapes and Simon Woodley to carry out the grounds maintenance for the forthcoming year, with Lewes District Council carrying out the football pitch maintenance, which is the same arrangement as last year.
8. Car park update. The Clerk reported that the S106 agreement would be available for the next meeting for signature by the Council. The WSCC Solicitor acting on behalf of the SDNP advised that her fees would be £2,641.20 representing 14.2 hours work; this was much higher than the original estimate due to the matter being more complicated and protracted than originally anticipated, so more time was required. The fees for the ESCC Solicitor are £878. The Council **resolved** these accounts.
9. Neighbourhood Plan Reports. Cllr Ingram was awaiting confirmation of a meeting date in March from Leyton Rowe in relation to Long Court Corner.
10. Highways working party reports including recommendation of appointment of a highway consultant. Cllr Orme had circulated a report following a meeting with the consultants. These were being discussed further at the Traffic Meeting to be held on Friday, 1st March.
11. To consider repairs to street lights. The Clerk advised a unit in The Twitten needed a replacement cell at the cost of £248.08. The Council **resolved** these costs and the Clerk will instruct ESCC to proceed.
12. Finance Matters.
 - a) To receive the bank reconciliation. Cllr Guggenheim signed off the bank reconciliation.
 - b) To approve invoices for payment. The Clerk had circulated the schedule of payments detailed below for £3,513.96 which was **resolved** by the Council.
 - c) To approve change of account signatories and authorised users on NS&I Investment Bank Account. The Council **resolved** to add Sarah Mamoany the new Clerk & RFO to the account.
 - d) To consider litter honorarium The Clerk reported that Ray visited the office as he was concerned the honorarium was too high. The Council have set the budget figure at £575 for 2019/20; this is the same as the previous year and will look to review in the 20/21 budget.
13. Correspondence.

The correspondence list was circulated. The Clerk was asked to write to Lewes District Council in relation to the inadequate lighting in the car park to the rear of the Village Hall following a complaint from a resident.
14. Written and 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 9.00 pm.

Ditchling Parish Council
Expenditure February 2019

Date	Ref	Value (incl VAT)
01.02.19	Ditchling Village Hall	199.20
01.02.19	BT	129.71
01.02.19	Peter Western	35.00
01.02.19	Fasthosts/One Drive	1.99
26.02.19	Joseph Ash Medway	340.80
26.02.19	Ditchling Village Hall	28.00
26.02.19	Ditchling Village Hall	140.00
26.02.19	Ditchling Village Hall	36.00
26.02.19	Salaries	1,540.79
26.02.19	HMRC	653.93
26.02.19	Surrey Hills Solicitor	212.80
26.02.19	Peter Western	35.00
26.02.19	Defib Store	40.74
26.02.19	EasyCopier	42.00
26.02.19	SSALC	78.00
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