

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall on Monday 27 June 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. McBeth (Chairman), Smith, Robinson, Leaver, Ingham, Madden (Mrs), Madden (Mr) and the Clerk, Mrs M. Warner.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Participation: None

1. Apologies for absence Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Jones
2. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office Cllr McBeth signed the declaration.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th May having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. Outstanding Matters
Neighbourhood Plan Since the Draft Plan was published for consultation in the Spring the Project Management Group has been dealing with the many representations and objections received. It has also recently been in discussion with the South Downs National Park Authority on how best to deal with these and how to take the Plan forward to the next stage. The Neighbourhood Plan steering group met on Wednesday 22 June and councillors have received a copy of the documents; Designating Local Green Spaces and Review and Analysis of Responses to Pre-Submission Draft. Any comments councillors wish to make should be sent to the steering group as soon as possible. Cllr Smith has submitted comments regarding the conflict between policy cons 12 Protect Local Green Spaces and Com4 Prepare a Sport and Recreation Plan. Further green spaces in Westmeston may be included in the revised plan. It is likely that the potential development site at Nye Lane will be removed. Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been amended in line with the comments received from residents and the SDNP there will be a further period of public consultation. This is expected to commence on 1 August 2016 and last for six weeks.

Recreation Ground The final sanding of the new pitch was abandoned on 20 June as it was too wet, we are struggling to find a new date that does not adversely affect the cricket or stoolball club's mid-week games. The final sanding is expected to deal with the problems in the corner by the cricket nets where there are ruts. We are investigating the process for claiming liquidated damages for the delays, which resulted in a loss of rent it was hoped that up to £1,000 could be recouped. There are large amounts of debris at the rear of the Pavilion and we need to work with the Pavilion Club to resolve this, perhaps by sharing a skip. Cllr Leaver noted that the slide required some remedial work, the clerk was aware of this and had contacted a carpenter. The groundsman will paint white lines to mark the football pitch once he has completed some training. It was noted that the dog poo bins had not been emptied, in the w/c 13 June this is the third time in three months a collection has been missed. Dog poo bags were being thrown onto the floor by the overflowing bins. The Clerk to check that LDC has collected all of the bags, including those not in the bins.

Lighting Light 2 at Neville Cottages has been reported as faulty. No 2 Long Park Corner is still working but the glass is missing from the lantern. It was agreed that the Clerk would add information to the website explaining why some of the streetlights in the village are daytime burning.

Proposed additional car park Ben Ellis the Chairman and the Clerk met with Stephen Cantwell from the SDNP on site. Height barriers were discussed but it was felt that these would not be permitted. Cutting back the hedge along the footpath to the War Memorial, to allow better pedestrian access is essential. He indicated that the SDNP would want to see a mixed native hedge along the left hand side boundary and also a small area of trees, similar to those at the back of the site close to the entrance for screening. Views from the top of the Downs was a major concern and as much screening as possible should be provided. We are awaiting a formal response. Once we have a full response from Stephen we need to meet with Ben Ellis and firm up a budget.

Working party- Scout HQ It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Pre-school, the Scouts and the Pavilion Club to find a suitable meeting date to discuss options.

Broadband We understand from BT that the wayleaves have been agreed but not signed.

Website It was noted that many of the contact numbers are incorrect and require updating on the 'Useful Numbers' page

Boundary gates costs had been circulated for two pairs of L-shaped gates at approx £3,300. Cllr Leaver considered that the cost was high if the gates simply were symbolic to announce the arrival in Ditchling, gateway to the SDNP, but would welcome the gates if they were effective at reducing traffic speeds. The wording on the gates could say – 'please drive carefully'. It was agreed that speed limits would not be shown as these were not appropriate in the proposed locations.

Victory Bollards & Road safety It was agreed that six Victory Bollards be purchased, they will be stored by Cllr Robinson until space is made in the Groundsman's shed.

Meeting dates The Lower Hall is not available on 25 July or 26 Sept. It was decided to hold the meeting of 25 July on 26 July and the meeting of 26 September on 27 September at The Old Meeting House at 7.30pm. It was further agreed to agree a list of meeting dates for 2017 and pass these to the Ditchling Village Hall booking secretary as soon as possible, to secure the venue.

Ditchling Common There will not be any further news until the consultation period ends on 29 July

Footpath at Lodge Hill Cllr Robinson reported that the farmer had erected further fencing, cut back the hedge and created a new footpath. A new stile has been erected by the Monday Group. Cllr Robinson read from an email from Mr. Bain, who is in contact with the ESCC Rights of Way Officer. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Rights of Way Officer for an update.

5. Review of Freedom of Information Policy. The Policy was agreed the Clerk was asked to add the document to the website

6. Adoption of Complaints Procedure The Policy was adopted the Clerk was asked to add the document to the website

7. Planning Applications

7.1) LW/16/0363 Unit 3 The Old Grain Store Ditchling Common Industrial Estate Folders Lane East Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8SG Proposal: Change of Use from B8 (storage and distribution) to part B1(a) (office) and part D2 (gymnasium).

Object there is likely to be an adverse effect on the residential amenity of neighbours by reason of the noise generated by music playing at the proposed gymnasium. The Parish Council requests that if the Planning Committee should be minded to approve the application a condition is placed upon the applicant to install sound proofing.

7.2) LW/16/0404 Rainlea Janes Lane Wivelsfield East Sussex Variation of condition 1 (plans) relating to LW/15/0884 to increase the footprint of the building by 250mm and move the building 250mm south of the original position. **No comment**

7.3) SDNP/16/02690/HOUS 1 Dymocks Manor, 4 East End Lane Erection of a single storey rear extension, replacing of existing dormer with conservation roof lights, replacement of existing replacement windows, relocation of existing lean-to porch, replacement of existing brick garage with a timber store room and associated works. **No comment**

7.4) SDNP/16/02768/HOUS 4 Barnfield Gardens Ditchling BN6 8UE Demolition of conservatory on east elevation and erection of new single storey side and rear extension. **No comment**

8. Finance matters.

a) To receive the bank reconciliation. This was **agreed** as correct by Cllr Madden

b) To approve invoices for payment. Payments totalling £13,048.01 covered by cheque numbers 301730 to 301736 were **approved**.

c) To approve groundsman's subscription to the Institute of Groundsmen at a cost of £150 per annum. **Agreed**

9. Correspondence. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

P1 Bostall litter clearance – noted

P2 Allocated parking – It was agreed that allocated parking was not necessary in the Village Hall car park.

P3 Victory Bollards – discussed under matters arising

P4 Appeal 88 houses off Folders Lane – no further representations are to be made to the planning inspector. The Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Plan has allocated significant numbers of houses to the North of the town. It is hoped that the planning inspector will agree with earlier decisions in refusing this application and will uphold the Neighbourhood Plan.

P5 New electricity cable in Farm Lane – it was agreed that the Clerk seek further information from UK power Networks.

10. Written & verbal reports by representatives.

Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Ingham

Ditchling Pavilion Club –Cllr Smith

The Ditchling Society –Cllrs Madden & Madden. Given that meeting are arranged on an ad- hoc basis, it was agreed that Councillors would not routinely attend meetings.

Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson. A meeting will be held on 6 July to discuss the future of the Ditchling Village fair and to appeal for new volunteers.

Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – Cllrs Mc Beth and Madden

11. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only

The potholes in the Village Hall car-park are now dangerous and should be reported to LDC – the clerk to arrange.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman _____ 11 July 2016

Ditchling Parish Council		
Expenditure June 2016		
Date	Ref	Value (incl vat)
31/05/2016	TGMS	£648.00
31/05/2016	Postage	£24.00
31/05/2016	Dog poo bags	£289.20
31/05/2016	Fuel	£27.85
01/06/2016	Electricity	£5.43
12/06/2016	CPRE	£36.00
26/04/2016	Salaries	£3,678.84
23/06/2016	Kestrel Contractors Ltd	£9,927.46
06/06/2016	Plumpton College	£213.50
	Total	£14,850.28