

## Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House at 8 pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

184. Present: B.J. Clutterbuck in the Chair Mrs M .Bolton, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs S. Munier Mrs C M. Robinson, Mrs Y. Sen, A.T. Jones, A. H. Knowles R. Burman, B.D. Cohen and the Clerk Mrs M. Holman.

### Apologies D.W. McBeth (away)

184. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November having been circulated were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
185. Minutes of the Grounds Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, moved by B.D, Cohen, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be adopted by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
186. Minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> November moved by Mrs Y Sen, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be adopted by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
187. Minutes of the Lighting Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> November moved by R Burman, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be adopted by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
188. Minute 156 Appointment of External Internal Auditor It was noted that a new auditor was still being sought. It was agreed to advertise.
189. te 157 Affordable Housing in Rural Areas Result of survey awaited.
184. Minute 159 Rural Voices/Rural Choices It was noted that the Minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September had been received. At the last meeting that the idea of clustering for PCs to provide representatives had not been successful – no parish council had responded. The way forward was for a small group of representatives who were positive of supporting RV/RC to voice opinions on rural issues. There would be a meeting at Chailey Reading Room on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm if anyone was interested. It was hoped that D. McBeth would be able to attend.
185. Minute 160 National Park – Update It was noted that Hilary Benn had signed the Order to confirm the South Downs as England's ninth National Park at Ditchling Tea Rooms on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009. SALC had sent a letter and application form to nominate eligible people to stand for one of the seats allocated. Copies of the letter were circulated at the meeting. It was agreed to leave taking action until the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December.
186. Minute 161 SALC Conference for Town and Parish Councils Section 106 agreements for playground equipment – It was noted that a reply was awaited as to whether this applied to the roundabout.
187. Minute 162 Street Lighting Repairs It was noted that the delay in carrying out the work was because the contractors wanted to do them all together and were arranging traffic control.
188. Minute 163 Land in Keymer Road which was formally part of the Cricket Ground It was noted that this was still being investigated under Enforcement – Ref EN/09/0339 - result pending.
189. Minute 170 Ditchling Rail Crossing It was noted that a reply was awaited. It was reported that a post and rail fence was being erected on common land but the Chairman of the Ditchling Commoners had stepped in and the work had stopped and the material removed.
190. Minute 176 New Cricket Practice nets It was noted that the safety audit was being carried out by the Club, LDC had sent some advice re the proximity to the Football corner flag etc. which had been forwarded to the

Club.

191. Minute 181 Development of Burgess Hill - Traffic in Ditchling It was noted that MSDC would welcome two Councillors to the workshops on 7<sup>th</sup> December – details of the letter and questionnaire had been circulated It was agreed that A.T. Jones and R. Burman would attend. The questionnaire was discussed and would be completed by the Clerk.
192. LW/09/1067 39 Lewes Road  
Planning Application - Section 73A Retrospective application for the retention of a shed with flue at rear for Mrs E Pope  
It was agreed to object to the application on the grounds that the shed would by virtue of its design, materials and location be detrimental to the character of the surrounding area and dominant in the street scene from The Fieldway.  
This would be detrimental to the objectives of policies designed to protect the countryside from unnecessary development.
199. LW/09/1162 Old Meeting House Cottage 2 The Twitten  
Listed Building Application - Alterations to improve rainwater drainage for Trustees of the Old Meeting House  
B. J. Clutterbuck declared a prejudicial interest as a Trustee and left the room while the matter was discussed and the decision reached. No objections.
200. 3812 (09/115) 9 The Twitten  
Crown reduce False Acacia by 30%  
No objections.
201. LW/09/1176 Tovey Lodge Underhill Lane Westmeston  
Planning Application - Erection of a detached garden store/garage for Mr R Burman  
R. Burman declared a prejudicial interest as the owner and left the room while the matter was discussed and the decision reached. No objections.
202. 3812 (09/118) Sandpit Cottage, 4 High Street  
Pollard Poplar at 30ft lower than present height. Fell Yew Tree. Crown reduce Cotoneaster by 30%.  
No objections.
203. The Old Stables, 103A Lewes Road It was noted that a letter and a copy of the plans had been sent to the Chairman. These these were noted, it was agreed to await the formal plans before commenting.
204. Finance matters  
a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance The folder was circulated for information having first been checked by one of the Financial controllers.  
b) Accounts for payment The accounts for payment had been circulated, the accounts were authorised for payment and signed by the Chairman and B.D. Cohen. The invoices etc having first been scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers.  
c) September quarter Summary The details had been circulated for information.
205. LDC Planning Training for Town and Parish Councils 10<sup>th</sup> December 7pm to 9pm at Lewes Town Hall. It was agreed that Mrs Y. Sen, B.D. Cohen and R. Burman would attend.
206. Ditchling Archery Club It was noted that a copy of a letter from the Club had been circulated seeking the Council's views following a request from a Club Member to shoot with a crossbow. It was agreed to reply that the Council was concerned about the use of a crossbow on the Recreation Ground which had public access and a footpath running parallel with the shooting area. A crossbow was a cocked weapon unlike an archery bow; the request was refused in the interest of Health and Safety.
207. E.S.C.C. LATS Newsletter It was noted that copies of the newsletter had been circulated. It was agreed to

write to Councilor Matthew Lock expressing the Council's concern about the lack of progress regarding the Ditchling LATS with copies to all concerned, Lindsay Frost at LDC was still awaiting a copy.

208. Items laid on the table The following were circulated.  
East Sussex Fire and Rescue magazine. South Downs Joint Committee annual review. CPRE Countryside Voice & Sussex Review
209. New Bollard obstructing pavement The new bollard outside Ditcheling Antiques obstructed the pavement – the County Council were going to remove it and sought the Council's view as to how to whether it should be replaced or not. B. Hudson had also been asked. He had responded that it was essential to have a bollard at that site but suggested it might be re-installed 1/2 metre south where the pavement is wider & there was no brick door pillar. It was agreed to support the suggestion.
210. Reports by Representatives. No written reports received except RV/RC  
Village Hall Management Committee -Mrs Belinda Brittain  
Ditchling Pavilion Club - Tom Jones – a Trustee and the Chairman were concerned about the state of the Pavilion and dissatisfied that the Council was not going to develop it further.  
Ditchling Village Association – B.J. Clutterbuck  
The Ditchling Society –R. Burman  
Lewes District Association of Local and Parish Councils (two representatives) -Brian Clutterbuck and Don McBeth.  
Rural Voices Rural Choices- Don McBeth and Brian Cohen.
211. E.S.C.C. Report Mrs Meg Stroude - no report
212. LDC Report Tom Jones –report given.
213. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only.  
New Scout Lease – this would be discussed at the next meeting

Chairman

15<sup>th</sup> December 2009