

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 22 March 2016 at 7.30 pm

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

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Participation: Fiona Hughes from Ditchling Pre-school addressed the Council. The Pre-school meets in the Scout Hut Monday to Friday. They are the sole occupiers during the day but other groups meet in the hut in the evenings such as Scouts, Brownies & Cubs. The Pre-school must put away all of their equipment and furniture at the end of each session. There are currently 31 children attending and 7 staff. The group would ideally occupy their own premises where it would not be necessary to store all items each afternoon. Ms Hughes would be pleased if the Council were able to suggest any alternative community spaces. An alternative space would require kitchen facilities as well as toilets and an office. Ms Hughes agreed that the current premises would be ideal if the Pre-school were the only occupiers.

Ms Hughes was thanked for attending and advised that at present there were no community spaces available, exclusively. However the Parish Council had been advised informally that the Scouts are also seeking more suitable premises. Councillors suggested that if this was the case then the possibility of selling the building and constructing alternative accommodation at the Recreation Ground should be considered. It was noted that parking in East End Lane presents a problem for all user of the Scout Building. The recreation ground has a large car park and ample green space for users. The Neighbourhood Plan promotes a Sports and Development Plan for the Recreation Ground, any new buildings would form a part of this plan. Cllr Smith advised that he was not sure if it would be possible to add another storey to the Pavilion as it was a timber framed building. It was noted that funding may be available from sources such as the National Lottery Fund.

- 1 *Apologies* for absence: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Banfield, Madden (Mrs) and Ingham
- 2 *Minutes of the Council Meeting* held on 8th March having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 *Outstanding Matters*
Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is now in the consultation phase, all documents are available on the Beacon Villages website (www.beaconvillagesplan.co.uk) and the main document is available on the Parish Council website. There will be a meeting on 9 May to discuss comments received from the public.

Recreation Ground. Michael Stratford on behalf of Ditchling Football Club has requested use of the Recreation Ground for a fundraising event for a cancer charity, on Sunday 28th August 2016. The event will feature an exhibition match on the improved pitch. There are no stoolball or cricket matches scheduled on the day. Sport England would be invited. Cllr Smith proposed that the Parish Council could contribute by improving the façade of the Pavilion with some summer planting or pots.

The request to use the Recreation Ground for a fundraising event on was **agreed**. It was further **agreed** that the Parish Council would provide planting and or planted pots.

Cllr Jones proposed that a working party be formed to look into the possibility of disposing of the Scout HQ and using the funds to construct purpose-built facilities at the Recreation Ground. It was **agreed** that Cllrs Smith, Jones, Robinson and McBeth would form a working party. The clerk will check the terms and length of the lease with the Scouts.

Lighting Beacon Road, no. 2 light is not working. The Clerk to report to ESCC.

Defibrillator Following the discovery that while the defibrillator is connected to the main electricity supply, the keypad works on a battery. Neil Losson will check the battery each month and change it when required. The training sessions were well attended and 30 people are now trained to use the equipment. Further training sessions and refreshers can be arranged if there is sufficient demand.

Proposed additional car park Mr Ellis was not able to attend. Mr Ellis is to be invited to the meeting of 12 April. Mr Ellis will not be making a charge for his services. There will be some administration costs to pay to the planning authority and ESCC Highways. These costs are expected to be £2,000-£3,000.

Broadband It is hoped that an update will be available after 1st April and that the proposed site for the new box will be acceptable.

Website The draft site proposed was accepted and it was **agreed** that Peter Western would be asked to create the site at cost of £200. Cllr McBeth to send details to Mr Western.

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations The official press release has not been received. It was **agreed** that posters with simple wording be ordered. It was thought that steward numbers would be sufficient.

4. Village Gateways It is hoped that Gateways are to be provided, at the Folders Lane junction, as this is the where the National Park is viewed as road users enter the village, and on the Downs past the Beacon, where the village is visible. The verges in both locations are wide enough to accommodate gates either side of the road. The design and wording must be agreed with the National Park, Cllr Jones will follow up with the Park Authorities.

5. The Pavilion Club – see outstanding matters, Recreation Ground.

6. Planning applications

6.1) SDNP/16/00662/HOUS 10 Shirleys, Ditchling, Erection of Dormer at side. **No Comment**

6.2) SDNP/16/00944/LIS 26 West Street, Ditchling, Internal & external alterations including link between house and outbuilding. **No Comment**

6.3) SDNP/16/00900/LIS 26 West Street, Demolition and rebuilding of unsound fabric to outbuilding. **No Comment**

It was **agreed** to purchase a mini LED projector for a cost of £59.00, a Lenovo miix 300 laptop for £119.99 incl vat. It may be necessary to purchase a screen and portable DVD drive at a later date. There is a screen at the Old Meeting House. A data stick may be sufficient for holding the files. The equipment will be required for the meeting of 12 April in order to view planning applications. The Old

Meeting House layout does not lend itself to viewing planning applications on a screen. The Village Hall is fully booked on Tuesday evenings; availability on other evenings is to be investigated.

7.

NUD320TUJGG00	Application
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Finance matters.

- a) *To receive bank reconciliation.* This was agreed as correct by Cllr Madden.
- b) *To approve invoices for payment.* Payments totalling £10,431.77 covered by cheque numbers 301693 to 301706 were approved.
- c) It was **resolved** that the Parish Council join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), with effect from 1 April 2016, and that the clerk shall be eligible to join. That the Council notes that the current Clerk Michelle Warner wishes to join the LGPS, via the Ditchling Parish Council's corporate membership, with effect from 1 April 2016.
- d) It was **agreed** to show a payments list as a note to the minutes from 1 April 2016 listing all payment made in the month with salaried amounts for staff shown as a combined total.
8. Correspondence. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- P1 It was **agreed** that an s137 grant of £250 be paid to Ditchling Pre-school.
- P2. No further information has been received from the tennis club regarding lighting.
- P3. The request to close Beacon Road to permit litter pickers to clear the large amount of litter in this part of the village has become problematic. Highways England will not sanction the road closures and road side pickers cannot be used unless the road is closed. The methodology has not yet been agreed. The Parish Council thanks the Ditchling Society and all the volunteers for their effectiveness in clearing litter from other parts of the village.
- P4. Members had no comment to make in respect of the proposed boundary changes to the East Sussex wards.
- P5. The road closures for the Ditchling Fair are welcomed.
- P6. It was **agreed** to purchase the lamp post sourced by Sand Munier if the reclamation yard could deliver, it was noted that it was not worth sandblasting the post until it was required for use, but it must be stored inside. The Clerk to check if there is room in the workshop on the recreation ground.
9. Written & verbal reports by representatives. There were no written reports.
Cllr Robinson reported that the newcomers evening had been very successful and it was good to see so many young people attend.
10. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only
- Cllr McBeth had not attended the recent meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils, but minutes would be circulated soon.
- Cllr Madden asked if the playschool sign outside St Margaret's Church needed to be on permanent display. Cllr Jones responded that the District Council had a notice policy.
- Cllr Jones advised that the Lewes District Local Plan had been approved.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

