

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 24th July 2012.

Present R. Burman in the Chair, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs Y Sen, P.M. Smith, and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies, Mrs M. Bolton (away), A.T. Jones (hospital), A.H. Knowles (away), Mrs C.M. Robinson (prior engagement), D. Carpenter, D.W. McBeth (away)

62. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 10th July having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
63. Minutes of the Footpaths Committee held on 10th July Moved by Mrs Y Sen, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record and adopted by the Council.
64. Minutes of the Grounds Committee held on 9th July Moved by P. M. Smith, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record and adopted by the Council.
65. Minutes of the Burial Committee held on 17th July Moved by Mrs Y Sen, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record and adopted by the Council.
66. Minute 38 E.S.C.C. Strengthening Local Relationships The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July had been circulated for information.
67. Minute 39 Affordable Housing Group The meeting would be arranged as soon as Mrs M. Bolton returned from her holiday.
68. Minute 40 New Standards Regime Full details of the Code and the Register of Interests had been received from the Monitoring Officer and circulated. It was agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct and each Councillor would complete the Declaration of Interest forms as supplied by LDC.
69. Minute 48 Neighbourhood plans It was noted that Andrew Triggs from the South Downs National Park Authority would be attending the meeting on 14th August to discuss the way forward.
70. Minute 52 South Downs National Park Forum Report from Roy Burman, Catharine Robinson, Darren Carpenter and Tom Jones – who had agreed to look into the possibility of approaching the Sustainable Community Fund regarding a new car park. The Chairman reported that the advisory group had not managed to arrange a meeting to date.
71. Grounds Committee Minute 1 Car Park It was noted that both LDC & E.S.C.C. Engineers had been asked for advice. This would be circulated as soon as it was available.
72. Grounds Committee Minutes 2 Surface under main Play equipment It was noted that two quotations had been received to use the Nottsward surfacing at www.nottssport.com. These had been circulated as unidentifiable quotes A & B. It was agreed to accept the lower quotation of £3,989.06 + VAT from Groundwork and Leisure Services Ltd.
73. Finance matters
 - a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance The file with the reconciliations and reports for the months of May & June was laid on the table, having first been scrutinised by one of the financial controllers.
 - b) Accounts for payment The accounts for payment and receipts had been circulated prior to the meeting, having first been scrutinised by one of the financial controllers. The accounts for payment were agreed and signed by the Chairman and Mrs B. Brittain.
 - c) Quarterly Financial Statement The statement had been circulated for information.
74. Proposed changes to on Street Parking Controls. Proposals to introduce new parking controls near the War Memorial had been advertised by E.S.C.C. Although the deadline had been 20th July, the Parish Council had registered that it would be submitting substantive comments on 25th July and an exception had been made. It was agreed to comment as follows My Council is objects strongly to the proposed changes put forward in your documentation dated June 2012. On your website it states "Following a review of parking in Lewes in 2011, a number of changes to parking restrictions were approved. Before these can be made, we have a legal duty to

advertise proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and give anyone a chance to object." This was the first my Council had heard of any proposals and there was no reason or purpose given for the changes.

1. There is insufficient car parking in the Village at present which would be exacerbated by the loss of any section of the Highway available for parking. For many years the Parish Council has been looking to find an additional car park and this is still being given priority.
 2. Businesses which are the life blood of a village are suffering through lack of car parking for passing trade as well as local residents who cannot park.
 3. Ditchling Museum is undergoing extensive expansion works with a new entrance from Lodge Hill Lane this will require on street parking facilities. St Margaret's Church which now includes the Parishes of Streat and Westmeston whose worshippers live too far away to attend on foot, events on the Village Green such as weddings etc, War Memorial, Tea Rooms, The White Horse all these need on street facilities..
 4. The elderly, those with limited mobility and parents with children need parking facilities to attend services etc.
 5. A number of school children walk to Hassocks to attend school, and need to cross by the Way Memorial where the southern footway end, they would not be protected from speeding cars if parking was removed. Cars already break the speed limit when approaching the village from Keymer but are slowed down by the parked cars.
 6. There is a lack of overnight safe parking for residents as cars are often vandalised when left in the car park behind the Village Hall.
 7. The proposal goes against the Lewes District Policy as set out in its "Quality for Life in the Lewes District Document"
- My Council requests that serious consideration is given to these points and the letters you have received from residents and that these proposals are withdrawn.

75. Request received for white lines outside 34 – 38 North End to delineate the parking spaces for the properties. It was agreed that this was outside the Parish Council's jurisdiction and that the writer should contact the County Council as the Highway Authority.
76. Cricket Club It was noted that permission had been sought for the Club to erect a marquee for the duration of Cricket Week Monday - 13th August to Sunday 19th August. This was agreed.
77. E.S.C.C. Focus on East Sussex 2012 Annual Monitor It was noted that the latest copy had been received and was laid on the table.
78. Farm lane Entrance to Recreations Ground. There had been a very muddy patch on the path leading to the play area where the water comes off Farm Lane. Darren, the groundsman had been putting barrow loads of soil in the area to fill in the holes but it kept washing away or turning into mud. He did some research and found details of heavy duty honeycomb matting which he could lay in the autumn when the grass cutting season was over, it would cost in the region of £570, it would then be seeded. LDC suggested this surface when the roundabout was put in. This was agreed.
8. County Council Report. No report.
9. District Council Report No report
10. Written reports by representatives No written reports received apart from LDAPLCs and the Ditchling Society.
Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs Catherine Robinson.
Ditchling Pavilion Club-Mrs C. M. Robinson.
The Ditchling Society –R Burman
Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson
Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) –D. Mc Beth and P. Smith. Minutes of last meeting have been circulated
11. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only or for inclusion on the next Agenda.
Speeding in Spatham Lane and the Consultation Document from the Government regarding "new lower speed limits on rural roads." It was agreed to find out the details for discussion at the next statutory meeting on 28th August.

Chairman

28th August 2012