

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 7.30 pm

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

Apologies for absence: Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Jones and Banfield.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Participation: Mrs Chisholm from 83 Lewes Road addressed the meeting. Five large trees are to be removed from her property and she requested permission for her tree surgeon to access land owned by the Parish Council to remove the trees. Photographs of the site were passed to councillors. The Parish Council granted permission with the proviso that all necessary insurances are in place, any damage is made good and the work would not take place on the same day as a burial and good notice would be given. Mrs Chisholm was advised to speak to the District Council tree officer to check if any permissions were required.

1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th November having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

2 Matters arising

Neighbourhood Plan. The public meeting had been very successful with approx 200 attendees. The feedback forms and sticky notes from the day are now being analysed. Forms can still be returned via the Post Office or online. There is a meeting of the Focus Group Leaders taking place tomorrow night.

Recreation Ground. The goalpost sockets have not survived the work on the recreation ground and must be renewed in addition the pitch needs marking using a laser system for accuracy. The price quoted has fallen to £800-1,000 for the goal post sockets and £450 plus vat for the pitch marking. Ditchling Football Club continues to be inconvenienced as they cannot use the pitch and it was therefore AGREED that the Parish Council add the cost of pitch marking to the contract. The Philipson Trust have indicated that they will cover some additional pitch costs. To date the contingency fund has not been used and some savings have been made by seeding rather than turfing. It may be that a portion of fees are returned from the contractor as compensation for missing deadlines. There will be two further spreads of sand on the pitch in the spring. There will be a meeting on Friday 27 November to review the condition of the ground and to decide if play can commence on 6th December, Cllr Smith to attend.

Lighting. Faulty lights reported were 2 Clayton Road, which also has a leaning post. It was noted that the faulty lights in West Street, East End Lane and Church Lane had already been reported. The lamp standard by the pond has not yet been straightened. The clerk to continue to report and chase all repairs.

Proposed additional car park. A letter to the landowner proposing heads of terms had been drafted and circulated. It was AGREED that the letter be sent as soon as possible in order that negotiations can progress.

Broadband BDUK have reported that the solicitors acting for the landowners of Boddington Lane have agreed in principle to the siting of a BT box. The owners of The Bull have not yet responded.

Post Office no further information has been received to be discussed at the next meeting if an update is available.

Proposed Road Speed Alterations It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Group had a meeting arranged, to take place the following day, with ESCC Highways dept to discuss proposals to reduce speeds on some roads within the Parish. Following this meeting a meeting with the Parish Council and ESCC Highways would be arranged.

Court Farm Planning Application and DEFRA It was AGREED that the clerk would write to Defra to find out which information provided was correct, given that there was inconsistency in the findings.

Defibrillator Approximately 20 people have signed up for the training which will take place in the new year. The Parish Council agreed to pay for hall hire costs.

3. Planning applications

SDNP/15/04654/HOUS 28 West Street, side and rear extension with minor alterations.

No comment.

4. Finance matters.

a) To receive bank reconciliation This was agreed as correct

b) Accounts for payment. Payments totalling £24,112.67 covered by cheque numbers 301651 to 301663 and 301595 were approved.

c) To approve standing order for payment – A weekly standing order for £300.80 and a monthly standing order for £35 were approved.

d) Addition of signatories Changes to the rules at the Co-Operative Bank mean that only a signatory can carry out routine tasks such as order a new cheque book, it was decided that in future the Chairman would carry out these tasks on behalf of the clerk.

e) To agree figures for the budget for 2016/17 This will be finalised at the next meeting with each of the committees making adjustments if required at the beginning of the meeting.

e) Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates 497, 498 and 499 were signed.

5. Correspondence

P1 The Archery Club requested permission to mark foot and target positions and to spray a pink marker by dog mess on the recreation ground. It was noted that the groundsman has already tried to reduce dog mess by highlighting the problem in this way, but the Council had no objection to the Archery Club also trying this method. It was unclear which material the Archery Club wanted to use to mark the grass and they will be asked for further information. No markers that protrude from the ground can be permitted. P2, Replacement no cycling sign, it was noted ESCC have been notified. P3, 88 Folder Lane, no comment. P4, proposed speed limits and P5 lighting, these items were dealt with under matters arising. P6, Mrs Chisholm attended the meeting, see public participation.

6. Written reports by representatives.

Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs N Banfield – none received

Ditchling Pavilion Club –P.M. Smith –none received

The Ditchling Society –Mrs N Banfield – none received

Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson. Circulated as correspondence.

Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – D. Mc Beth and P. M. Smith
nothing to report

7. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only

The 2016 meeting list to be re-sent to all councillors.

Cllr Robinson reported a number of blocked drains in the High Street and a blocked culvert in Clayton Road which will be dangerous if the water freezes. Our local highways steward to be notified.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman

15th December 2015