

# Ditchling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Statutory Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 26 April 2016 at 7.30 pm

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

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Participation: Sandi Munier addressed the Parish Council on the subject of Victory Bollards and requested that the Council ensure that ESCC Highways adhere to the agreement formalised in 2014, that bollards in Ditchling will be replaced with Victory Bollards as they fall into disrepair or are damaged.

Peter Humphries representing Ditchling Archery Club confirmed that he was in attendance to hear the Parish Councils consideration of an email he had sent to the Clerk.

Howard Foskin from 72 East End Lane addressed the Parish Council regarding planning application 3, 70 East End Lane. Number 72 has been built in the former garden of number 70. There were many planning restrictions imposed when no. 72 was constructed. The current application flies in the face of these restrictions. The windows of no 72 were not permitted to overlook no. 70, however the current application has an abundance of windows overlooking no. 72. When no. 72 was built the height was limited to 5.6m and the site was dug out to achieve the various restrictions and adhere to covenants in place.

Mrs Barbara Phillipson and Mrs Jennifer Aspden advised that they had passed a letter to the Clerk objecting to planning application 5.3. They feel that the house is not suitable for an historic lane, and raised concerns over the light pollution that would result from the large windows.

- 1 Apologies for absence: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Banfield
- 2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Outstanding Matters  
Neighbourhood Plan. Comments have been submitted to Tom Dufty, there has been a considerable amount of feedback concerning the inclusion of Nye Lane as a prospective site for 5 new homes. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee is meeting on 9 May 2016.

Recreation Ground. The sand is bedding in well; the cricket pitch is considered playable. The sanding had to be carried out to solve on ongoing flooding issues and work was carried out as soon as ground conditions permitted.

Lighting The new lanterns and supply posts have been installed at 5 Lewes Road and 5 East End Lane. The LED replacement bulbs being fitted were very bright. The Clerk has asked ESCC if it is possible to have less bright lights in sensitive locations. It was noted that the South Downs National Park has a dark skies policy.

Proposed additional car park The documents to submit to Lewes District Council for pre-application planning advice had been received from Mr. Ellis, it was **agreed** that the Clerk forward these with a covering letter. It was noted that grasscrete can produce a slippery surface and would need to be monitored in icy conditions. Parking restrictions in Lodge Lane would not be linked to the planning application but it was hoped that these would follow.

Broadband The Parish Council had widely circulated the news that superfast Broadband in Ditchling will not be fully operational until June 2017. Paul Boichat from BT has offered to come to Ditchling to assure residents that they are doing all they can to find a suitable location for the fibre cabinet. The proposed location in South Street is subject to ESCC permission. It was **agreed** that a meeting between BT and residents would be arranged

Website It was **agreed** that a link on the new DVA website to the Parish Council minutes would be useful. The Clerk will check with Peter Western if he need any further information to construct the new website.

Boundary gates to be located by the lodges at Stamner Park and the bridge just past Folders Lane. The Park have not given any guidance on the wording. It was **agreed** to investigate likely costs. Cllr Leaver was concerned that this would be an expensive exercise. It was noted that gates had been successful in slowing traffic in other locations.

4. The Oldland Windmill Trust to appoint Mr. Roger Broadbent as the Ditchling representative to the Trust. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Madden.
5. Ditchling Burial Ground It was **agreed** that three quotes be obtained for works to extend the Burial Ground into the adjacent plot purchased for this purpose. The revised Burial Fees for 2016/17 were **agreed**.
6. Planning applications

SDNP/16/01118/FUL The Barn, Ditchling Village Green, Ditchling. New patio in front of west elevation, new gate and handrail and entrance on east elevation **Recommend approval.**

SDNP/16/01432/HOUS 3 Emett Gardens, Ditchling. Erection of a summerhouse in garden area. **No comment.**

SDNP/16/00850/HOUS 70 East End Lane, Ditchling. Loft conversion including raised ridge height, creation of front and rear gables, insertion of dormers, new ground floor extension. Objection, recommend refusal, the extension due to its bulk, scale, massing and design fails to respect, compliment and integrate with the scale and appearance of the existing dwelling and is considered to be an incongruous and dominating structure in relation to the existing dwelling and the wider surroundings. The development due to its size and location would have a detrimental impact on residential amenity through loss of daylight be overly intrusive to adjoining properties with its overbearing presence. In addition, the extension is not subsidiary in relation to the existing dwelling. The Parish Council requests that this application is considered by the Planning Committee and the decision is not delegated to officers

SDNP/16/01817/TPO 15 Beacon Road, Ditchling 1x Beech T8 on the Plan - cut branches away from BT pole and cables; 1x Beech T9 on the Plan - remove old bird nest in crown; 1x Prostrate Cypress T10 on the Plan - shape all over by 1m. No comment.

1x Yew T11 on the Plan - crown lift over pathway; 2x Beech T12 and T13 on the Plan - strip off lvy from crown; 1x Ash T14 on the Plan - remove deadwood and crown lift 7m over road. No comment.

SDNP/16/01798/TCA 86 East End Lane, Ditchling tree works including 2 x Hornbeams - Crown thin 25% and reduce height 1m; 1 x Pear tree - Crown thin 25% and reduce height 1m to clear telephone cable; 1 x cypress - Fell 1 x group of cypresses - crown thin by 25% and reduce in height by 1.5m. No comment.

SDNP/16/01180/TCA 4 Barnfield Gardens, Ditchling. Removal of 8 Conifer trees situated in the back garden shading 2 neighbouring properties. Trees have been planted too far out into the garden and are taking up too much space. Possibility of re planting replacement trees in future. No comment.

7. 

NUD320TUJGGC	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 £7,881.59 covered by cheque numbers 301707 to 301716 were approved.
- c) *To approve insurance renewal and commit to a 3-year arrangement.* The renewal premium of £3,482.85, was **agreed** this included a 5% discount for a 3-year arrangement,
- d) Grant of exclusive burial for signature Certificate 500 was signed.

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

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Peter Humphries representing Ditchling Archery Club to speak. Mr Humphries explained that the Archery Club was seeking to grow and increase the offering to members. A request had been submitted via the Clerk to extend the hours of use at the Recreation Ground. The club includes County and national level archers and is keen to retain those members as well as attract new members. There are currently 60 members. There is a tournament arranged on 5 June and councillors would be very welcome to attend. Currently sessions are Weds & Thurs at 5pm until dusk and Sunday 9am to 1pm. Cllr Robinson suggested that the Archery Club has a presence on the DVA website.

P1 It was **agreed** that permission be granted for Ditchling, Streat, Westmeston Annual Inter Village Sports on 29/30 May to use the Recreation Ground

P2. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not have a stall at the Village Fair.

P3. Beacon Celebrations, no further action.

P4. Victory Bollards. There had been a policy agreed with ESCC, and this should be upheld. If the Victory Bollards are more expensive than the alternatives, as we are informed, then the Parish Council could contribute towards the cost. It was **agreed** that ESCC Highways be asked to remove the new bollard outside Chichester House and replace it with a Victory Bollard and the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost.

P5. Ditchling Archery Club. It was **agreed** that sessions on Weds & Thurs could commence at 2pm rather than 5pm, provided other users can walk around the rugby field and access the 5- a -side pitch. It was not agreed that session times on Sundays could be extended, it was not agreed that the Archery Club could use the Recreation Ground on Saturdays. Cllr Leaver referred to the problem of dog mess referred to by the Archery Club and suggested that a Bye Law was required. It was agreed that the Archery Club could spray chalk and the Parish Council would provide a poo bag dispenser and bags for a trial period to see if this helped to resolve the problem.

9. Written & verbal reports by representatives. There were no written reports.

The DVA AGM would be taking place the following evening, 7.30pm at Ditchling Pavilion.  
The Chief Constable will be attending the next SSALC, questions for the Chief Constable can be submitted.

10. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only

The Ditchling Commoners AGM Meeting was taking place this evening.  
The painted letters appearing in the village had been arranged by Ditchling Museum, without the necessary planning permission.  
Cllr Jones advised that sites such as Ditchling Common, the Seven Sisters Country Park and Chailey Common are to be managed in future by external groups.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ 10 May 2016