

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on 26th July 2011 at 8pm.

Present Mrs Y Sen in the Chair, Mrs M. Bolton, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs C.M. Robinson, R. Burman, D. Carpenter, A.T. Jones, A. H. Knowles, D.W. McBeth and the Clerk Mrs M. Holman.

Apologies B.D. Cohen (accident)

73. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th June, having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
74. Minute 46 War Memorial. It was noted that other quotations were awaited re the re cutting the names, One quotation received to date re the gate; four other firms have been approached with a deadline of 3rd August. It was agreed to wait until someone had been appointed to cut the names before deciding about the cleaning.
75. Minute 47 Footbridge/gate Old Archery Field/Burial It was noted that the new gate was in situ. The notices were being ordered.
76. Minute 48.Village Hall Notice Board. It was noted that the oak could not be treated but the PC part of the Notice Board needed relining because of the damp. A quote for a new top board was being sought.
77. Minute 49 Condition of Folders Lane Roundabout. It was noted that there was no further information to date.
78. Minute 50 Seat in Children's Play area. It was noted that the seat was now back in situ in the Old Archery Field.
79. Minute 53 Green Waste Bins It was noted that LDC was looking into the possibility of including cardboard, food waste etc and also ways of improving the current recycling. It was agreed to stress the importance of collecting both green waste and cardboard and ask to be kept informed of progress.
80. Minute 62 South Downs National Park Authority. There was no report on Seminar held on 19th July as no one had been available to attend..
81. Minute 65 Planning Training. It was noted that two places had been requested for 15th September in Lewes, a response from LDC was awaited.
82. Minute 72 Dead wood in large Ash Tree in Recreation Ground. It was noted that this work was being carried out on 25th July.
83. Planning results received since the last meeting were laid on the table.
85. LW/11/0715/NP The Barn The Sandrock High Street
Planning Application - Erection of a porch and garage for Mrs J Traies
No objections.
86. LW/11/0803/NP Old Meeting House Cottage 2 The Twitten
Listed Building Consent Application - Installation of gas fired central heating system to chapel and associated works including insulation in roof void/additional lighting to chapel for Trustees Of The Old Meeting House
No objections.
- 87... Finance matters
 - a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance The file with the reconciliations and reports for the month of June was circulated.
 - b) Accounts for payment The accounts for payment and receipts had been circulated prior to the meeting. The invoices etc having first been scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers were agreed for payment and the cheques signed by A.H. Knowles and A.T, Jones.
 - c) Audit papers It was noted that all the papers etc had been submitted to Mazars on time for the main Audit. Result awaited.
 - d) Quarterly Financial Statement was made available in hard copy.

88. E.C.C.C Annual Parish & Town meeting re the Council's work on Economy, Transport and Environment. It was noted that this would be held at Uckfield Civic Centre Friday 16th September all day. McBeth and R. Burman expressed an interest in attending.
89. Football Club. Request to use the ground for practice. Mick Stratford had requested that the Club use the Rugby Field for practice on Wednesday evenings. This was agreed providing the Clerk obtained written consent from the Rugby Club and the Archery Club. A copy of the signed agreement had been received together with a copy of their insurance.
90. South Downs National Park Authority - Consultation document and questionnaire. This had been out sent by email on 30th June. No action was taken.
90. Subsidence in Recreation Ground It was noted that further subsidence had been found at the site of the major collapse in June 2001. Southern Water had been contacted and came out, the sewer was inspected, jetted and a camera put down. No damage found but it still needed to be investigated further as there appears to be a void about 18 inches under the grass.
91. Swarm of Bees in Recreation Ground. On 15th July, a report was received at 7.45am that there was a swarm of bees on the cricket nets. The Police were contacted immediately and provided the name of the Chairman of the beekeepers Association in West Sussex. Several visits were made to the site to make it safe and a bee keeper arrived to remove the majority of the swarm. Whilst on site a member of the public came up to complain that her son had been stung the evening before. The swarm had not been reported by the public or cricketers.
92. Ground Aeration Machine. It was noted that it was hoped to book this for Monday 19th September.
93. Future of Planning. The following matter was raised by D McBeth, "At last weeks LDALC meeting The following was minuted:- " Trevor Leggo pointed out that Parishes could take over planning decisions for themselves if they so wished, and he expressed the view that planning was becoming a major issue for parishes". He went further and said that if parishes wanted to do this, then the DC's would finance any appeal costs. I do not know where he got this from, but it does sound a lot better to me that the current system. This was noted but no action taken.
94. Speeding Mrs Catharine Robinson asked for the following to be discussed she would like to know if there is a sign that we can attach to the 30mph signs stating something like 'Community Watch for Safer roads'. If they do not have a similar type sign then maybe they should consider having one. It may make drivers a little more cautious if they think their number plate may be taken by people in the community and reported to Operation Crackdown. It should have the title 'Operation Crackdown' as a heading to make it clear. It was reported that this matter was being looked into by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership.
95. Reports by Representatives.
 Village Hall Management Committee - Mrs. B. Brittain No report
 Ditchling Pavilion Club-B.D. Cohen written report received and circulated.
 The Ditchling Society –R Burman No report.
 Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson apologized for the failure to hold the Coffee Morning which should have been hosted by the Ditchling Society.
 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – D. Mc Beth and Mrs E. L. Pruen. D. McBeth reported that he was the new Chairman and the Minutes would be available for the next meeting.
96. LDC Planning User Group Report No report.
97. County Council Report No report
98. Lewes District Council Report. A.T. Jones gave a short report. The working Group would meet again re Affordable Housing.

Chairman 23rd August 2011.