

Ditchling Parish Council

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

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

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Participation: None

- 1 Apologies for absence: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Leaver.
- 2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th January having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Outstanding Matters

Neighbourhood Plan. The draft plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. The National Park Authority wants the plan to be submitted for preliminary review by the end of February. Following the review the plan will be modified. The Parish Council will be particularly concerned with future aspirations for the recreation ground. Mr Bolton representing the Tennis Club had attended the Grounds Committee meeting to discuss a proposal to have floodlights installed at the tennis court at a cost of £15,000 with the Parish Council making a financial contribution. Mr Bolton had been informed that the Parish Council welcomes any suggestions that increase the use of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that further information was required.

Recreation Ground. Cllr Smith reported that there had been a site meeting held three weeks ago with the Contractor, the Consultant, the Football Club and the Parish Council. The Football Club accepts there will be no play this season. Play is expected to start in August 2016. This has been an issue all over Mid -Sussex, with the heavy rain resulting in numerous cancellations. The pitch is not draining as well as hoped because there is not yet enough sand in the soil. The slits will heal once the weather improves and the growing conditions improve. It was not thought that the Rugby Club had used the Rugby pitch this year. There is localised flooding at the bottom corner by the cricket nets, the contractors will be putting in additional drainage. The goalposts do not need to go in position until just before the first match. The guttering to stop water cascading off from the roof of the Pavilion onto the upgraded pitch has not yet been installed. Once all work is completed the pitch will be of good quality.

Lighting. There have been a significant number of faulty lights reported in the last two weeks. Eric Ware from ESCC Highway Lighting Electrical Supervisor has met with the Clerk. The Clerk reported that following the appointment of Costains & CH2M as the ESCC Highway contractor, Costains will be maintaining the street lights and signs. Colas will cease carrying out repairs from 30 April. Refurbishment of lanterns is possible, the sides must be measured each time as the sizes alter between lanterns and even sides of the same lantern. New lanterns are usually more cost effective. There was some discussion over using a local company to repair lanterns as there was no obligation to use Costains. Costains have not yet released a pricing structure. The invoice for replacement of the pillar and associated electrical works in East Gardens would be issued to the Parish Council

soon and will exceed £3,000. All estimates received for lighting repairs are estimates only as the final costs will always increase if the pillar is rotten/ and or the electricity supplier has to attend on several occasions.

Proposed additional car park The Landowner has agreed to the Heads of Terms put forward by the Parish Council the next stage is to prepare a planning application. Ben Ellis, a local person with the necessary skills, has offered his services for free to prepare the application. It was agreed that Mr Ellis should be invited to the next Parish Council meeting for discussions.

Broadband The Chairman reported that he had contacted BT and had asked why BT services cannot be housed in a single box, there are 6 different BT boxes by the min-roundabout in Folders Lane. He had also asked why it is necessary for boxes to be located within 50 meters of each other. Where a category 5 cable is used there should be no loss of function over 180m. BT has not yet responded. If a new box could be located up to 180m from the existing box by the crossroads then the Village Hall site could be used. It was noted that a wide space was required as the sides of the boxes fold out. Another option would be to replace the existing box. It is unlikely that there will be any works carried out until 1 April when the new budget is released.

Defra. No further information.

4. Planning applications

SDNP/15/06379/HOUS 62 East End Lane. Demolition of existing storey rear conservatory, construction of new rear extension and alterations to rear roof to include a dormer to replace existing velux window.

No comment.

LDC proposal to cease supplying paper copies of planning applications. A recent meeting of the SSALC had shown that other parishes are unhappy with the proposals. It was noted that Wealden District Council provided all parishes with a laptop/projector and screen when they stopped providing paper copies of planning applications. The new chief executive of Lewes District Council Rob Cottrill has been invited to the next meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils, where the proposal will be discussed.

There was some discussion over whether a laptop screen would suffice to look at planning applications or whether a projector and screen would be required, it was decided that a screen would be preferable.

5.

NUD320TUJGG00	Application
---------------	-------------

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. celebrations It was agreed that Ditchling would take part in the celebrations and the brazier would be lit on Ditchling Beacon on Thursday 21 April 2016. The clerk would make a start by writing to request the necessary permissions and a working party would be formed at a later date.

6. Annual Parish Meeting It was agreed that the meeting would take place in the Old Meeting House. The event would be advertised using laminated A1 posters. Refreshments would be provided. The Ditchling Society and DVA would be invited.

7. Website to consider proposed upgrade. The revised format was discussed, it was noted the cost was £40-£50 per page. Peter Western is to be invited to the next Parish Council Meeting.

8. Finance matters.

It was noted that there were insufficient funds in the current account to cover the payments listed. No funds had been received from Sport England or the Philipson Trust to date for works to the recreation ground and the council has met all costs from its own reserves. The total funds due in respect of the pitch upgrade were:

Sport England	£50,000
The Philipson Trust up to	£65,000
The Turner Dumbrill Trust	£5,000
The DVA	£1,000
Total	£121,000

Cllr Smith advised that Sport England had requested written assurances from co-funders before the first drawdown of £45,000 would be released. They had also raised a query regarding planning permission, but this had not been required and so was irrelevant. Cllr Smith would speak to the claims manager and advise that they should communicate with the new clerk. The values of retention amounts and liquidated damages from the contractor were discussed. It was agreed that the contractor's invoices should continue to be paid in order to avoid further delays to the work. A cheque from the Philipson Trust for £30,000 was expected to be received in the next few days.

- a) *To receive bank reconciliation.* This was agreed as correct
- b) *To approve invoices for payment.* Payments totalling £10,250.28 covered by cheque numbers 301675 to 301686
- c) *Quarterly financial comparison.* The report had been circulated prior to the meeting, there were no comments made.
- d) *To sign DD mandate re Nest pension for auto-enrolment compliance* The mandate was signed.

9. Correspondence. The list has been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

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

10. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only

Following a meeting with The Ditchling Society attended by Tony Steer the chair of Bolney PC, the Chairman has produced a draft Resilience Plan. All members are asked to input by advising where grit bins are located, chainsaws, 4x4 vehicles etc.

Cllr Ingham informed the meeting that dates for the defibrillator training had been received from the Ambulance Service; she is now waiting for dates from the Village Hall to be provided.

It was noted that the description of Dumbrells Court was incorrect in the Neighbourhood Plan; all such feedback should be sent to Tom Dufty.

The Newcomers party will be held on Saturday 19 March from 7pm in the Village Hall.

The Princess Royal League of Friends are holding a fundraising quiz night on 20th February, Parish Councillors were invited to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

