

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday, 27th January 2009 at 8pm.

Present. B. J. Clutterbuck in the Chair, Mrs M. Bolton, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs S. Munier, Mrs Y Sen, R. Burman, B.D. Cohen, A.S. Knowles, A.T. Jones and the Clerk, Mrs M. Holman.

Apologies D. McBeth, Mrs C.M. Robinson.

297. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 13th January having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
298. Minute 252 Traffic Report/LATS It was noted that a list of possible dates had been circulated but there was no further information to date. It was agreed that the Councillors involved would contact E.S.C.C. about the delay.
299. Minute 254 Finger Posts. It was noted that these would cost between £600 and £800 each depending on size, wording etc. Full details had been sent to the contractor and a quotation was awaited for the two fingerposts. It was noted that 50% of the cost could be reclaimed from the County Council. It was agreed to ask if they were available made from recyclable materials.
300. Minute 255 Pedestrian safety at Common Lane. It was noted that E.S.C.C. had sent emails re the current position which had been circulated for information together with a copy of the letter sent by Peter Eastwood on behalf of the Ditchling Common and Tenantry Down. The result of the safety audit and possible new footpath were awaited.
301. Minute 257 Matters raised in report from the Ditchling Society.
- (a) South Street It was noted that Paul Crawford had replied that the Traffic Order for the new parking restrictions came into force on December 22nd. The work would be carried out by the contractors in the next few weeks- he would notify the Clerk of the date.
- (b) Village Hall Car Park It was noted that LDC had contacted the parking people at E.S.C.C. re the matters raised.
- (c) National Park It was noted that no further progress regarding the possible recognition of the contribution made by Chris Todd had been made to date.
302. Minute 282 Utilisation of Council's assets. Initial investigations and inquiries re the future of the Scout HQ regarding its use by the Scout Group and Pre-school Group and the possible re-building/extension of the pavilion to accommodate the Groups had been discussed under confidential business in order not to raise hopes or alarm residents. It was agreed that a plan would be drawn up showing the exact space available at the Scout HQ including the garden and details of the space required to meet the criteria set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. The details would be circulated to all Councillors for information and copies sent to Andrew Hill, Team Leader Planning at LDC and Joanne Grogan E.S.C.C. before having a site meeting with them on the Recreation Ground to find out if the project would be viable and would meet OFSTED requirements etc.
303. LDC Planning Liaison Meeting – Lewes DC /Town and Parish Councils This had been postponed due to lack of support.
304. LW/08/1299 Split Parish - Dobells Cottage Dobells Farm Dobells Farm Lane Ditchling Common
Planning Application - Section 73A Retrospective application for retention of separate dwelling created from one dwellinghouse for Dr M Rahman
No objections

305. LW/08/1416 -Land Rear of 16 North End
Planning Application - Rebuilding of existing brick barn and demolition of existing Dutch barn and greenhouse & erection of a 5 bedroom house and garage for Mr R Heasman
It was agreed to object to the application on the following grounds – It was overdevelopment by virtue of it being a five bedroom property; it would have an adverse impact on the street scene particularly in relation to East Gardens; it is out of proportion in relation to the smaller properties in the vicinity; it would create additional traffic onto North End at a point where the road narrows and the traffic builds up to negotiate the buildouts.
306. LW/09/0015 Lodge Hill House Lodge Hill Lane
Planning Application - Demolition of existing garage and erection of new detached garage for Mr P Fairbank
No objections
307. Finance matters
- a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance The December reconciliation and details of Bank Statements etc were circulated having first been scrutinised by one on the Financial Controllers.
 - b) Accounts for payment The accounts for payment had been circulated; were agreed for payment and the cheques signed by B.J. Clutterbuck and Mrs B. Brittain. The invoices etc having first been scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers.
 - c) VAT Refunds It was noted that new regulations VAT 126 relating to claims in respect of Construction, Repair or maintenance works to Village Halls, recreational facilities, youth clubs, playgrounds etc had been received, copies were circulated for information.
 - d) Quarterly comparison etc. Full details had been circulated for information.
 - e) Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial Certificate Number 466 was signed.
 - f) Football Rent 2008/09 In view of the change of groundsman and the co-operation shown by the Club in the interim, the possibility of making a once off reduction in the rent was discussed. It was agreed to reduce the rent by £150.
308. Footpath 49 It was noted that a request had been made to have this path diverted so that it came out opposite Clayton Road where the crossing would be safer. The present exit was further down Clayton Road in the hedge where visibility was poor and the traffic was moving at speed, this was in the hands of E.S.C.C.
309. Water Framework bulletin and Consultation from the Environment Agency. Full details had been circulated. It was agreed to take no action.
310. Safer Lanes initiative Details of the proposal had been circulated, it was agreed to support the scheme which involved the use of stickers to reduce speed. It was agreed to contribute £100 towards the cost of their production in conjunction with neighbouring villages.
311. Consultation document – Details of the E.S.C.C. Draft cycling Strategy had been viewed on <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2009/cyclingstrategy/default.htm>. This was discussed, it was agreed to respond that more provision should be made for recreational cycling.
312. Consultation Document Code of Practice on Local Authority publicity. A hard copy had been received; it could also be viewed on <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/publicitycodeconsultation>. It was agreed to discuss this again at another meeting.

313. Light on Scout HQ It was noted that a copy of a letter which had been sent to the Scout Group had been received complaining about the light being on a timer which did not go off until 10.30pm, the writer requested that it was put on an ordinary switch and used as required. It was agreed to support the suggestion.
314. SALC Courses Councillors were encouraged to attend courses which would be financed by the Council – Mrs M Bolton and R Burman expressed an interest and would confirm at a later date.
315. Cricket Practice nets The Club had submitted details of new nets which they hoped to install on the Recreation to replace the old ones. They would be sited by the hedge but this time would run parallel in the interest of safety. This was agreed provided a Risk Assessment was carried out.
316. E.S.C.C. Report Councillor Meg Stroude – No report.
317. Lewes District Council Report Councillor Tom Jones gave a short report.
318. Reports by Representatives.
Village Hall Management Committee -Mrs Belinda Brittain -No report
Ditchling Pavilion Club - Tom Jones -No report
Ditchling Village Association – B.J. Clutterbuck -No report
The Ditchling Society –R. Burman -No report
Lewes District Association of Local and Parish Councils (two representatives) -Brian Clutterbuck and Don McBeth.
Rural Voices Rural Choices- Roy Burman and Brian Cohen. Minutes of last meeting had been circulated

Chairman

10th February 2009