

Present D. McBeth in the Chair, Mrs M. Bolton, Dr V. Ingham, Mrs. C. M. Robinson, A. T. Jones, M. Madden, P. M. Smith and the Clerk Mrs M. Holman.

Apologies Mrs N. Banfield.

284. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 14th April having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from Minutes dated 24th March, 7th April and 14th April.

285. Minute 259 Neighbourhood Plan The following was discussed. "Traffic and transport policy paper" which can be found at the bottom of the following web page. <http://www.beaconvillagesplan.co.uk/pdocs.htm>. It was agreed that the Focus Group needed to concentrate on matters which were achievable as opposed to matters which had been suggested in the past but not taken forward.

286. Minute 260 Tree planting to commemorate First World War It was noted that a Bay Willow had been ordered.

287. Minute 263. Suggested additional Car Park in Keymer Road. The owner of the land has replied " I understand and appreciate that the village needs additional parking, the District Valuer's response on the field somewhat surprises me for the following reasons: 1. The valuation placed on the land seems to assume it is designated agricultural, not equestrian. The average value of one acre (agricultural) in England was £10,200 in 2014. 2. The valuation does not take into account that reducing the overall size of my property from three to two acres would adversely affect the value of the remaining land. 3. The valuation does not reflect other recent market transactions in the area, for example: 0.95 acre (equestrian) at Poynings was sold at auction in February for £33,000 and three acres (equestrian) in Nye Lane is currently under offer at £85,000. When I met with the Parish Council group I mentioned that my preference was to lease the land rather than sell it. This is still the case. However, there is no reference to such a valuation from the District Valuer. Based on these facts, I think the valuation you sent me does not reflect the market value of the field." It was agreed to contact the owner informally and ask her to submit her expectations for the land, if it is not for purchase, then the suggested length of Lease and the charge etc.

288. Minute 265 Lighting It was noted that the following replies had been received a) the lights in Beacon road have had the UKPN supply repaired. b) four works orders that have been issued to Colas North End Col 3 to install a pillar and new lantern; High street Col 1 to install a pillar; Keymer Road Col 2 to install a new control box and free issue second-hand lantern." Regarding East Gardens I have received a plan which I have delivered to the property affected awaiting their permission to erect it and a pillar on the private land. I have also approached the other neighbour as its proximity could affect their property. No further response to date.

289. Minute 266 The Defibrillator Dr Victoria Ingham had the plaque from the Lions Club, the Council needed to obtain a plaque with the instructions for its use. The wording, size colour etc for the instructions were agreed. It was noted that there would be an informal meeting on site on 30th April at 5.15pm.

290. Minute 274 The Pensions Regulator SALC had replied "that come 2017 the council *Must* offer any employees, even if you only have one, the opportunity to receive employee contributions to a pension scheme. The Council must raise funds, if necessary through the precept to cover this, should the employee agree that they want contributions to a pension scheme. The employee has the right to decline to receive payments into a pension scheme." This was noted.

291. Minute 278 Drainage of the Recreation Ground. A site meeting had been held last week with the Consultant who did not think that the seed needed watering, he dug into the surface and found that underneath it was damp, the seedlings were about a centimeter in places. He was returning on Thursday to see progress as a decision will need to be made shortly if the outfield will have to be turfed in order to get it ready in time for Cricket in June. This was noted.

292. SDNP/15/01485/HOUS 36 East Gardens
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Green
Proposal: Rear extension & loft conversion to create a first floor.

293. SDNP/15/01660/FUL Fourfields Farm, Dumbrells Court Road
Applicant: Mr P Barton
Proposal: Erection of an implement shed (amendment to planning approval LW/09/0075)
No comment.
294. SDNP/15/01686/TCA - Little Rowlescroft 2 North End
Sycamore T1 – fell
No comment
295. SDNP/15/01682/FUL Land at Keymer Road
Applicant: Mr J Wallden
Proposal: Change of Use of land to provide two rugby pitches and associated car parking for Ditchling Rugby Club.
It was agreed to object strongly to the application on the following grounds – The area lies outside any planning boundary as defined by LDC, and is in countryside defined as being with the South Downs National Park, where development other than that related to agriculture, forestry or another rural enterprise would be resisted; it is contrary to the purposes of the National Park whose purpose is the “protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the National Park, including its biodiversity and cultural heritage”; it is essential to retain and protect the Strategic Gap between the Villages, the sports fields would have an adverse impact on this; the site lies in an area which floods; the dangers associated with the entrance to the Sports Complex when approached from Ditchling due to the blind bend in the road. The Council supported the letters of objections from neighbours, residents and other bodies.
296. SDNP/15/00879/HOUS 5 Barnfield Gardens
Applicant: Mr M Woods
Proposal: Re-advertisement – Amended Plans: Erection of ground floor rear extension, first floor front extension and ground floor side extension
It was agreed to object to the application on the grounds that even though the plans had been amended and the garage would not extend to the boundary, it would be still be overdevelopment of the site and would affect adversely the special character of Barnfield Gardens. It was agreed to support the Pre-app advice regarding the siting of the garage “*This will create a large amount bulk to the front of the dwelling, This I feel will detract from the character of the street scene and appearance of the conservation area. As we discussed I would prefer that this garage be separated from the dwelling and set further into the site.*”
A.T. Jones abstained from voting.
297. Finance matters
a). Checklist for Audit and insurance. This was laid on the table, having first been scrutinised by the Financial Controller.

b) Accounts for payment. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting having been scrutinised by the Financial Controller. The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed by D. McBeth and A. t> Jones.
298. Letters of thanks have been received from the Beacon Churches for the grant for the upkeep of the Church Clock and from The Monday Group for their footpath Grant. These were noted.
299. SALC Letter received and circulated for information re the appointment of parish members to the National Park Authority. This will be a future Agenda.
300. CPRE Latest copies of Countryside Voice and. Field Work received and noted.
301. District Council Report A.T. Jones did not give a report.

302. Matters raised by Councillors Mrs M. Bolton - the website - to discuss whether to review the website with a view to upgrading the site. This would be on the main agenda in May for discussion.

303. Written reports by representatives. No reports received.

Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs N Banfield

Ditchling Pavilion Club -Mrs C. M. Robinson.

The Ditchling Society –Mrs N Banfield

Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson.

Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – D. Mc Beth and P. Smith.

304.. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only The Clerk was asked to find out when the works to repair the lights which had been ordered would be carried out.

Chairman

19th May 2015