

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 28th August 2012.

Present R. Burman in the Chair, Mrs M. Bolton, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs C.M. Robinson, Mrs Y Sen, D. Carpenter, D.W. McBeth
P.M. Smith, and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies A.T. Jones (recuperating),

90. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 14th August having been circulated, were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
91. Minute 70 South Downs National Park Forum R. Burman reported that the group had suggested using the field to the east of St James Cricket Ground for an additional car park with a new entrance from Keymer Road. He had made some initial inquiries from the owner of the land. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach LDC etc to see if there was any point in taking it further.
92. Minute 71 Grounds Committee Minute 1 Car Park. Both LDC & E.S.C.C. Engineers had been asked for advice. This would be circulated as soon as it was available.
93. Minute 74 Proposed changes to on Street Parking Controls. It was noted that E.S.C.C. had replied "*Bus stops have not been considered as part of the parking review, these are looked after by the public transport team and any queries should be sent to them. They can be contacted by telephone on 0345 60 80 194 or email to passenger.transport@eastsussex.gov.uk. The parking review is nearly complete and the objection period has now ended. We are currently processing the responses received and considering the issues that were raised. Once these issues have been resolved the proposals will need to go to planning committee for a final decision. We hope that any changes will be approved and implemented by the end of the year. We were not notified of a problem in Dumbrells Court Road during the consultation phase of the parking review therefore it has not been considered. Your concerns have now been logged and will be considered when we next review parking controls in Ditchling. . This will not be until at least a year after the current review has finished.*"
94. Minute 82 Speeding in Spatham Lane and the Consultation Document from the Government regarding "new lower speed limits on rural roads" The consultation Gov Document "<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-32/>" had been looked at, it was agreed to respond to Westmeston Parish Council that the Council would support any action it considered relevant as the highway was within its parish.
95. Minute 83 Affordable Housing Advisory Group It was noted that the next meeting was being held on 29th August at 2pm
96. Minute 84 Neighbourhood plans Following the last Council Meeting, the Councillors were still undecided as to the way forward it was agreed to invite Trevor Leggo Director of SALC to a meeting to explain matters further, before making a decision.
97. Case No: SDNP/12/01492/HOUS
Date Valid: 13 August 2012 Decision due: 8 October 2012
Team: LDCNTH Case Officer: Mr Andrew Hill (Lewes DC)
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Chapman
Proposal: Erection of an orangery extension to south elevation (replacing porch and bay window)
Location: 6 The Twitten, Ditchling, Hassocks, BN6 8UJ
It was agreed to object to the application on the grounds that it was overdevelopment of the site which has a number of wooden structures which are not shown on the plans. It would have adverse impact on then unique design of The Twitten which is in the Conservation Area and recommended for an Article 4 Direction in the Conservation Appraisal there would considerable loss of amenity space.
98. Case No SNDP/12/01751/HOUS
Date Valid: 16 August 2012 Decision due: 11 October 2012
Team: LDCNTH Case Officer: Mr Andrew Hill (Lewes DC)
Applicant: Mr M Felton
Proposal: Erection of single storey garden room and outbuilding to the rear of the house
Location: Field Gate, 96 North End, Ditchling, Hassocks, BN6 8TG
No objections.
99. Section 211 notification to remove Holly on the site of the new disabled car park at St Margaret's Church.
No objections.

100. SNDP/12/01694/TCA
 Location: Sandpit Cottage 4 High Street Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8TA
 Proposal: Poplar - Re-pollard; Cotoneaster - Re-reduce; 2 x Yew - Fell; Holly - 12-15ft off crown height; Sycamore - Reduce by 20ft; Macrocarpa - Fell; Spruce - Fell
 No objections.
101. Finance matters
 a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance The file with the reconciliations and reports for the month of July was laid on the table, having first been scrutinised by one of the financial controllers.
 b) Accounts for payment The accounts for payment and receipts had been circulated prior to the meeting, having first been scrutinised by one of the financial controllers. The accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed by the Chairman and D. Carpenter.
 c) Audit It was noted that Hugh Barron had completed the internal audit to date.
102. Request for Tourist Signs -Tovey Lodge E.S.C.C. wished to obtain the Council's view; full details had been circulated prior to the meeting. R. Burman declared a prejudicial interest and left the building while the matter was discussed and the decision reached. Mrs Y Sen took the Chair. It was agreed to respond that the Council was unanimous in opposing the signs on the grounds that the signs were unnecessary to advertise a B & B when there were clear directions on websites; it would encourage increased vehicular traffic through the very narrow Underhill Lane by general visitors; to accept this application by the Chairman could make it very difficult to refuse other similar applications as there were a number of other B & Bs in the vicinity. The Council was not in favour of excess signage in the Village.
103. E.S.C.C. letter received re the possibility of converting some of our lights to part night lighting. It was agreed that that the lighting in the Parish should remain in its present form and hours.
104. E.S.C.C. Annual Parish /Town Meeting Monday 17th September at Eastbourne. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should attend.
105. AiRS it was noted that the latest accounts and newsletter had been received and were laid on the table.
106. CPRE Countryside Voice It was noted that the latest copy had been received.
107. County Council Report. No report
108. District Council Report No report
109. Written reports by representatives No written reports received other than a report from LDALC.
 Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs Belinda Brittain.
 Ditchling Pavilion Club-Mrs C. M. Robinson.
 The Ditchling Society –R Burman
 Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson
 Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) –D. Mc Beth and P. Smith.
110. Matters raised by Councillors The Clerk was asked to report to the County Council and LDC the amount of the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam, Impatiens glandulifera growing in Beacon Road and on the site in South Street.

Chairman

25th September 2012