

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the deferred Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday, 3rd February 2015 at 8pm.

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

Apologies, Mrs. C. M. Robinson

201. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 16th December having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
202. Minute 174 Neighbourhood Plan It was reported that Focus Groups were now being held considering such subjects as housing, transport, environment, St Georges Park etc. The unspent balance of the money which had been provided by the Community Services Foundation had to be returned by 31st January, it was hoped more would be provided in April. Meanwhile the PC was asked to bear any costs; this was agreed as they could be reclaimed at a later date.
203. Minute 176 Tree planting to commemorate First World War No fresh information to date.
204. Minute 177 Replacement of fence on both sides of the Burial Ground entrance from Lewes Road. It was noted that new quotations were awaited; firms were very busy following the recent weather. It was reported that the fence between the Burial Ground and the extension land had completely rotted away and needed replacing. It was agreed to seek quotations with this included.
205. Minute 179 Sport England Grant for draining the Football pitch The Clubs and Funders had been updated re the present position. No action could be taken until the weather improved for a week or two. The Committee Chairman would contact the contractors to see if any progress could be made now that the weather had improved slightly. It was noted that the Cricket Club had covered the first four weekends of the season from 14th April and would like a report to put to their AGM. The Chairman stated that he would do this on behalf of the Council.
206. Minute 180 Defibrillators. It had been understood that the siting had been agreed with the Village Hall Trustees, however when advised by the Chairman of the Trustees, Phil Smith, some had doubts; discussions had been taking place. The Council was adamant that it was the right place for it but of course the Trustees would have the final say. Phil Smith was going to seek advice as to whether planning consent was required and keep the Council informed of the correspondence with the Trustees.
207. Minute 181 Speeding The Chairman and A.T. Jones were going to set up a meeting with the Chairman of Westmeston Parish Council and the County Highways Officer.
208. Minute 182 Bus shelter at St Georges Retreat No response had been received to date from the County Council.
209. Minute 184 To arrange a date to invite Highways to a meeting. This was deferred for the time being.
210. Minute 192 Re-instatement of Bus Stops The following reply has been received from the County Council and was noted. “ I agree that many local residents and bus drivers with longer memories do know where the buses generally stop. However, we also need to consider those potential service users (some non-local) who are not familiar with the bus network. I also receive requests from bus companies to mark some locations as their drivers are unsure where the stop should be. I am seeking advice to find out if any form of risk assessment is required for the re-instatement of these specific existing stops. New stops are assessed by our Traffic and Safety team prior to being permitted or declined but we don't normally carry out such an assessment for pre-existing stops as this is not a requirement of the Department for Transport. If we did have to reassess them we may find that many would fail to meet modern standards as they were established several decades ago when traffic conditions and regulations were quite different from the present.”
211. Minute 196 Zero Heroes Competition. It was noted that the Zero Heroes prize money had been approved for the Flood Lighting of the War Memorial but had not been paid to date.
212. Minute 198 suggested additional Car Park in Keymer Road. Report on the informal meetings on 22nd January and 30th January and the investigations carried out by the Clerk had been circulated. The action taken was noted, it was agreed to send a copy of the report to the District Solicitor for information. It was noted that five firms had been approached re putting in the planning application and the District Valuer had been asked to value the land both as agricultural and as a car park; he estimated that the cost would be approximately £750 depending on the time required. This was accepted.

213. Minute 199 Recruiting new Councillors. The new handouts are being prepared.
214. SDNP/14/06428/HOUS 40 Beacon Road
Applicant: Mr M Twigger
Proposal: Demolition of detached carport and erection of a single storey pitched roof side and rear extension
It was agreed to object to the application as it could be considered overdevelopment. There was no design or access statement and the plans were unclear.
215. SDNP/15/00182/TCA - 56 East End Lane, Ditchling
Reduce Crown of Eucalyptus Tree by 30%
No comment.
216. LW/15/0032 St Georges Retreat Ditchling Road Ditchling Common
Advertisement Consent Application - Retention of two advertisement hoardings for a further three years for The Trustees Of The Charity The Order Of St Augustine.
It was agreed to object to the application as it was considered to be no longer necessary.
217. SDNP/15/00106/LIS 26 West Street
Alteration to internal stair wall for Mr G. Palmer
It was to object as the Council supported the comment of the Conservation Officer that that there will be a negative impact created by the opening up of this wall.
218. SDNP/15/00107/FUL & 26 West Street
Addition of rooflights to main building roof for Mr G. Palmer
It was agreed to object to the application as it agreed with the Conservation Officer's comment that it there would be a negative impact that the additional rooflights would have on the visual and special interest of the listed building.
219. SDNP/15/00325/FUL
Applicant: Mr A Dawson
Proposal: Amendments to planning approval SDNP/14/04082/FUL to move footprint of building forward, minor alterations to internal floor layout, reduction of glazing on west elevation, removal of glazed entrance hall to south elevation and small projection to rear elevation
Location: 1 Nye Lane
No comment.
220. Finance matters
a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance. This will be laid on the table having been scrutinised by the Financial controller.
b) Accounts for payment. The list to be circulated prior to the meeting, the invoices having been scrutinised by the Financial controller.
c) New Bank Mandate Confirmation of the new signatories has been received. The signatories on the account are any two from D. McBeth, A.T. Jones, P.M. Smith and Dr V Ingham.
221. Rural Sounding Board The Rural Sounding Board was established in 2014 as a mechanism for Parish Councillors and Local Authority Councillors to share their views on key issues affecting rural communities. They are sent a short survey approximately 4 times a year to complete. Each Parish Council or Local Authority that are members of the Rural Services Network could nominate one Councillor to represent their area on the Sounding Board. A.T. Jones wishes to represent Ditchling. This was agreed.
222. Cycling Event 8th March Request had been received to use the car park at the Recreation Ground as in past years, they have been granted permission to use the Pavilion. This was agreed and it would be explained to both them and the contractors as to what was taking place.
223. Lewes District Council report. A.T. Jones
224. Written reports by representatives No written reports received. It was agreed that written reports of meetings should be submitted.
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.

225. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only.

- 1) Cotterlings Concern was expressed about the deterioration of this very important Listed Building. It was agreed to report it to the Conservation Officer.
- 2) Lighting As there were a number of lights needing attention etc, it was agreed to invite Eric Ware ,Communities ,Economy and Transport, Electrical supervisor Street Lighting, East Sussex County Council to a meeting to discuss matters.
- 3) Dumping of earth, rubbish etc at the trance to Dumbrells Court Road. This was the responsibility of the Turner Dumbrell Foundation and would be brought to their attention.

Chairman **10th February 2015**