

## Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House, The Twitten at 8pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 8pm.

Present. B.J. Clutterbuck in the Chair, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs S. Munier, Mrs C M. Robinson, Mrs Y. Sen, R. Burman, B.D. Cohen, P. A. Eckstein, A.T. Jones, A. H. Knowles, D.W. McBeth and the Clerk Mrs M. Holman.

58. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
59. Minute 12 Recreation Ground Play Area. It was noted that the Chairman had asked that this matter be expedited and progress made by the July Council meeting. It was agreed to hold a site meeting with the Committee on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am.
60. Minute 14 Ditchling Pavilion It was noted that various repairs had been carried out, it was to be repainted shortly.
61. Minute 15 Traffic Report/LATS It was noted that a letter from the County Council had been hand delivered to every house in the village. There was to be a public day for consultation etc on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July in St Margaret's School. The biannual traffic count was being carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> June.
62. Minute 16 Speed Indicator Device (SID). A new date was still to be agreed.
63. Minute 17 Sub Committee to look into details of the proposed new Office Accommodation. It was noted that following circulation of the only obtainable quotation for the chipboard flooring etc, the estimate was accepted and the work completed. The new door was still to be installed, the carpet was being laid in the next few days. It was agreed to meet the following Tuesday to choose the furniture. The sign had been completed and was in situ.
64. Minute 18 RoSPA safety inspection report on play area. It was noted that the inspection was awaited
65. Minute 19 Training in front of the Pavilion It was noted that the question of the fine had still to be resolved. It was agreed to invite members of the Club to a Special Meeting if the Council on a second Tuesday to resolve the matter.
66. Minute 20 General inspections of Grounds It was noted that the two Committee Meetings would be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July on site. Grounds Committee at 9.30am and Burial Committee at 10.15am to consider the suggestions arising from the meeting with Daniel Wynn.
67. Minute 21 Ditchling Cricket Club Full details of the proposals, risk assessment, insurance etc had been received and circulated. It was agreed to grant the Club permission to carry out the work on the nets and the drainage.
68. Minute 22 Ditchling Cricket Club. It was noted that full details of the proposed covers risk assessment, insurance etc had been received and circulated. It was agreed to grant permission for the work to be carried out.
69. Minute 23 Finger Posts. It was noted that a response was still awaited re the wording of the finger posts prior to costing.
70. Minute 24 Ditchling Archery Club It was noted that no further information had been received re the design etc of the proposed new storage hut.
71. Minute 25 Utilisation of Council's assets It was noted that the Chairman had asked that the matter be expedited and progress made by the July Council Meeting. A meeting was being arranged.

72. Minute 26 BT Consultation re proposals to remove payphones. It was noted that the result was awaited re the proposed removal of the payphone at South View.
73. Minute 27 Beacon Road Residents Association It was noted that the report of the meeting of County Council re the future of the bus service etc was awaited.
74. Minute 28 Code of Conduct The Chairman stressed the importance of abiding by the Code of Conduct particularly when dealing with other interests and those of families. It was agreed that a paper would be distributed for the next main meeting to ensure that the Declarations of Interest were up to date. A copy of an article about a disqualified Councillor had been circulated for information.
75. .Minute 44 Venue for future meetings The question of the future venue for meetings following the trial meetings at the Old Meeting House was discussed. B. J. Clutterbuck and Mrs B. Brittain declared personal interests. A vote was taken to see if the Councillors wished to return to holding the meetings at the Friends Meeting House in East Gardens. The vote was lost by 5 votes against and 3 in favour. In future the meetings would be held at the Old Meeting House in The Twitten.
76. Minute 54 Proposed web site It was noted that following the consultation, the matters raised had been addressed and the site was now online. Some Councillors wished to have their telephone numbers removed and also there was some confusion about email addresses, It was agreed that the numbers could be removed and that all the emails would be sent to the Clerk. There was some concern that it was not necessary to have the main contact on every page – this would be addressed as would the request to have a counter for the number of hits.
77. LW/08/0629 Eastons 16 North End  
 Planning Application - Alterations to provide additional bathroom accommodation at first floor level, alterations to garage, kitchen and entrance hall with new windows to kitchen, sitting room and entrance hall & internal alterations for Mr R Heasman  
 It was agreed to defer making a decision until the Conservation Area Consent application was received.
78. LW/08/0634 Mineval 52 East End Lane  
 Planning Application - Erection of a four bedroom detached house with integral garage (demolition of existing dwelling) for Miss E Poland  
 No objections .
79. LW/08/0635 Mineval 52 East End Lane  
 Conservation Area Consent Application – Section 73A Retrospective application for the demolition of dwelling for Miss E Poland  
 The Council had no choice to approve the application but deplored the fact that there was no process in being in being to prevent the demolition and feared it could create a precedent for similar practices in the future. It is not the first time that the applicant has submitted retrospective applications in the village.
80. LW/08/0636 Mineval 52 East End Lane  
 Planning Application - Erection of a four bedroom detached dwelling with double garage to rear (demolition of existing property) for Miss E Poland  
 It was agreed to object to the siting of the proposed double garage which was too close to the sheer edge of the sandbank. The height and size of the garage would be dominant and was out of context. The hard landscaping involved would have an adverse effect on the landscape.
81. Retrospective Applications. It was agreed to write to the Planning Department at LDC with copies to higher authorities asking if there was any way that financial sanctions could be imposed on developers who act first then apply for retrospective permission in the belief that it would be granted.
82. Mineval, 52 East End Lane There was concern about the state of the safety fencing around the site once the work was halted– it would not meet safety standards – it was agreed to ask LDC if this could be inspected

and made safe.

83. Appeal result 18 South Street – It was noted that the appeal had been upheld. Full details of the inspector's decision had been circulated.
84. Finance matters
  - a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance Details of Bank Statements were circulated.
  - b) Accounts for payment The accounts for payment had been circulated; the accounts were authorized for payment and the cheques signed by B.J. Clutterbuck and A Knowles.. The invoices etc having first been scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers.
  - c) Audit 2007/08 It was noted that the Balance sheet etc having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman and RFO.
  - d) Financial comparison etc for 2007/08 It was noted that the details had been circulated and no questions raised.
  - e) Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial Grant No 464 was signed
  - f) AdvantEDGE Online Details of the finance package had been circulated. It was agreed to accept the offer.
85. East Sussex County Council Report – There was no report from Councillor Meg Stroude
86. Lewes District Council Report There was no separate report from Councillor Tom Jones.
87. Letter re street lighting etc The County Council had passed on a letter it had received re street lighting in Ditchling. The writer complained about the bright light near the southernmost build out in North End. The contents of the letter were noted but no action taken.
88. E.S.C.C. Rights of Way It was noted that details of the Rights of Way survey which was being carried out by the County Council had been circulated.
89. Pre School Group – Scout HQ It was noted that a request for the Council's pre application support re the proposed extension of hours had been received. It was agreed that no action would be taken until the planning application was submitted, it would be dealt with in the same manner as all applications.
90. Kent & Sussex Wildlife Group. It was noted that an invitation had been received to its AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> July at 11am at Highfields Farm, Mayfield. To include buffet lunch and silent auction followed by a guided farm walk. Replies have to be received by 23<sup>rd</sup> June. No action was taken.
91. Sussex Review It was noted that copies had been circulated
92. The South East Regional Sustainable Framework A copy had been received -This was deferred until the next meeting.
93. Open Spaces Annual Report and Accounts It was noted that a copy had been received.
94. Action in Rural Sussex – Strategic Review of the East Sussex Youth Development Service. It was noted that the document had been circulated by email.
95. Ditchling History Project It was noted that a letter had been received requesting permission to transcribe the Gravestones in the Burial Ground. This was agreed.
96. Future of Cottage Homes It was noted that notice had been given that the Company wished to dispose of the cottages. Comments had to be received by 11<sup>th</sup> July. It was agreed to write stating that there was a need to protect the properties in the Conservation Area. The Council had not been notified and the Notice had been

on display for one week although it was dated in March.

97. Cricket Match on 9<sup>th</sup> July It was noted that a request had been received to hold a charity Match in aid of St Peters and St James Hospice on 9<sup>th</sup> July. This was agreed.
98. Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat Sports Day It was noted that a request had been received to hold the Sports Day on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August as the previous event was cancelled. This was agreed.
99. Reports by Representatives One written report received.  
Village Hall Management Committee - Mrs Belinda Brittain  
Ditchling Village Association – B.J. Clutterbuck– verbal report that the designs for the village sign were being judged on 4<sup>th</sup> July.  
Ditchling Pavilion Club - Tom Jones  
The Ditchling Society –Mrs S Munier- Written report received and circulated.  
Lewes District Association of Local and Parish Councils (two representatives) Brian Clutterbuck and Ashley Knowles  
Rural Voices Rural Choices- Roy Burman and Brian Cohen.

Ditchling Parish Council – Grounds Committee

Minutes of the site meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Recreation Ground on 12<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am

Present B.D. Cohen in the Chair, Mrs C.M. Robinson, R. Burman, B.J. Clutterbuck, C. Truran (groundsman)

Apologies D. McBeth (away)

1. Disabled bay and path to play area. Various surfaces had been looked at and considered – there were several matters to take into consideration. The path had been eroded in the past with the water draining from Farm Lane; there were large tree roots across the entrance; Southern Water have access to the sewers which run under the Recreation Ground and would need to take heavy equipment over the path etc. It was agreed to recommend that tarmac would be the most suitable surface. LDC had stated last year that for the 90sq. ft it would cost in the region of £9,000.
2. Tree work There were a number of dead trees to be felled and branches to remove. It was agreed to recommend that quotations were sought from approved tree surgeons to carry out the work.
3. The Old Archery Field The question of letting grass grow for wild flowers was discussed. It was noted that when there were games on the main pitches the area was used by families and children to play their own games etc. It was agreed to recommend that the grass is allowed to grow longer from the wild section down to just below the large tree on the northern boundary. No tree would be planted in this area so that it could be reclaimed at any time in the future. The question of mowing the long grass and removing it was discussed as the hay could become a fire hazard if left to dry. It was also agreed to recommend that junior goal posts are purchased and erected in the western mowed section for the youth to use.
4. BG Extension Land It was agreed to recommend that at sometime in the future an access would be made through to the land. There would have to be a considerable amount of research etc before this could be done as the land is covered in ferns.
5. Bridge to Burial Ground It was agreed to recommend that a rustic gate is erected at the Burial Ground side to prevent dogs running loose in the Burial Ground. It was also agreed that more signs stating “Dogs must be kept on leads” should be put up at both entrances.

Chairman

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008

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