

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday, 28th July 2015 at 8pm.

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

Apologies Mrs M. Bolton (away), Mrs. C. M. Robinson, J.B. Leaver,

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

Matters arising from Minutes dated 23rd June and 14th July.

67. Minute 43 Neighbourhood Plan It was reported that the first draft of the Community Focus Group was being prepared, other Focus Groups were working on theirs but the Housing Group was having the most problems. It was expected that the Plan would be ready in 2016.

68. Minute 44 Lighting It was noted that the work regarding the new light in East Gardens was in hand following permission on its siting from the land owner. The Light in the High Street was being chased as the original instructions were lost by Colas.

69. Minute 45 The Defibrillator It was noted that the photo etc was in the current Mid Sussex Times.

70. Minute 46 Drainage of the Recreation Ground. The rain had helped the seeding; the sand groves etc would be done as soon as the Cricket Season was over, football should be able to start in November.

71. Minute 47 Suggested additional Car Park in Keymer Road The District Valuer's Confidential Report had been received and circulated to Councillors for consideration. It was agreed that the next step would be to approach the owner and ask for her concept of the financial terms of a 50 year lease; once this was received negotiations could begin bearing in mind the District Valuer's figures.

72. Minute 48 Staffing Committee report. The advertisements had been published, closing date 14th August. This was noted.

73. Minute 49 successful appeal result for Court Farm, Keymer Road. It had not been possible to obtain the requested documents to date but it was still being pursued. A.T. Jones produced a copy of the Supplementary statement from Davis Campion, Chartered Surveyor and Planning Consultant in which he states that although there were third party allegations that there had been no cattle or farming activity on the site "Planning officers for the LPA and two external consultants have seen for themselves the cattle housed in these sheds" he also sent details from the Animal Movement Book beginning December 2014. It was agreed to find out further details if possible.

74. Minute 59 Staffing Committee and recruitment exercise for new Clerk. It was agreed that the Extraordinary Council Meeting called by the Chairman on 28th August would be held at 8pm in the Parish Council Office..

75. Minute 64 Defibrillator The corrected sign had been received, training for Emergency Responders would be organized shortly.
76. Minute 65 New sign on Listed Building in the High Street It was noted that this had been reported, a response was awaited from the Enforcement Officer.

Planning applications

77. SDNP/15/03385/HOUS Wick Place, Underhill Lane, Westmeston
Applicant: Mr & Mrs M Bichan
Proposal: The creation of a natural swimming pond with decking area
No comment.

78. Finance matters

- a). Checklist for Audit and insurance. This was laid on the table.
- b) Accounts for payment. The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- c) Financial Comparison to 30/06/15 This would be circulated for information.
- d) Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for signature. Grant for Plot V10 was signed.

Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

79. Broken metal cover in Farm Lane It was noted that this had been reported and it was found to be the responsibility of South East Water who had been notified.
80. District Council Report A. T. Jones gave a short report.

Matters raised by Councillors

A.T Jones

81. The lamp standard by the pond needs straightening. It was noted that an estimate had been requested.
82. The unsightly bins by the pond It was noted that although they were unsightly they were well used.
83. The wooden unofficial notice board by the pond. This was being renewed as it was put there without any permission being given.

P. M. Smith

84. Patio area layout for Ditchling sports pavilion. The Pavilion Club is considering laying a patio area to the north of the Pavilion steps to fill in the area by the Score Hut. It was agreed to support the suggestion.
85. Land adjacent to the Droveaway (so called "Rugby Club" land) It was agreed to support the consortium of Ditchling residents led by Mr T. Duffy to investigate the feasibility of acquiring, for the community, land adjacent to and west of The Droveaway, Keymer Road in order to prevent future development of this land and to help protect the strategic gap (green belt) between Ditchling and Keymer.

The Council also asked the consortium to provide regular updates to the Council in order that it could provide appropriate help if necessary. 10

86. Written reports by representatives. No written reports received.
Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs N Banfield
Ditchling Pavilion Club –P.M. Smith.
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.

Chairman

11th August 2015