



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

Ditchling Village Hall 18 Lewes Road Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8TT
Tel: 01273 844733 Email: parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk Website: www.ditchlingpc.org.uk
Parish Clerk: Sarah Mamoany Deputy Clerk: Derek Blackhall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely via the Zoom platform, on Monday 22 February 2021 at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Ingham, Orme, Sansom, Farrands, Forester, Rowling and Sarah Mamoany (Clerk)

Public Participation:

Cllr. Robert Eggleston from Burgess Hill Town Council & PCSO Nick Cox attended the meeting.

Cllr. Eggleston spoke in relation to item 14.3 on the agenda and explained the recent call for sites by MSDC and that the formal planning enquiry would be held in the next few weeks where they were concerned about sites SA12 and SA13 which have been put forward for approval. The concerns included the developments being close to the SDNP, traffic, infrastructure and the coalesce of the boundaries of Hassocks/Keymer/Ditchling with further development potentially creating new boundaries for future development. The Town Council are considering joining up with SOFLAG to fund the legal fees to defend the objections raised with regard to these sites; costs could be in the region of £20,000, but no firm quote had been received. The Chairman asked about the BH Neighbourhood Plan and if the Council would be looking to update it. Cllr. Eggleston explained that the exercise would be very time consuming and elements of the current NP had been ignored by the District Council and therefore he was not sure it would make any difference and that time might be spent better on other projects.

PCSO Nick Cox introduced himself to the Council and explained he covered Ditchling Parish along with the surrounding villages. Recently he has been working with the Rural Crime Team in relation to livestock worrying and agricultural thefts. A new rural engagement van will soon be up and running and Sussex Police are currently looking for accessible locations within the villages where the public can visit and to provide a greater presence within the rural and hard to reach areas of our district. Dates / times and locations will be advertised once they have been confirmed. They would also be able to provide a SID (Speed Indicator Device) which would be rotated around the villages and are looking to use speed guns. Councillors' noted the issues in the village that were of concern regarding traffic speeds and parking on pavements in particular and PCSO Cox advised he would speak to the appropriate contact around road safety issues.

1.	Declarations of Interest – no declarations of interest were made	
2.	Apologies of absence –Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Burman, Cllr. Madden and Derek Blackhall (Deputy Clerk)	
3.	To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18 January 2021 The minutes were resolved by the Council and it was noted these will be signed by the Chairman when circumstances allow as the meeting was being held remotely.	
4.	Clerks Report The Clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting to all Councillors. It was noted that the Parish Office redecoration had been completed and the Village Hall Management Committee had been informed of potential damp issues on the outside walls of the building. The new Ditchling Parish Council website www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk was completed and would go live in the next few days. This will be promoted in the Hassocks local magazine, the Parish Magazine and the old website will be set up to automatically redirect to the new website.	
5.	COVID-19 Update 5.1 To discuss any matters relating to COVID-19. The Clerk noted in her report that she continues to work from home. In addition, currently the Government has no plans to change the legislation in place that allows Councils to hold remote	

	meetings and therefore this will expire on the 7 th May 2021. It could be prudent to hold the May meeting before that date depending on the COVID situation and restrictions that might be in place and suggested this is reviewed at the March meeting as if social distancing was still in place the small hall would not be large enough to hold a Parish Council meeting.	Clerk
6.	<p>Planning - for full details of planning applications listed below please go to https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-applications/ or https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control The following comments were resolved by the Council.</p> <p>6.1 SDNP/20/05435/HOUS - 11 Boddington's Lane Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8SS -Extension and conversion of garage to one bedroom annex. – no comment</p> <p>6.2 SDNP/20/05697/HOUS - 4 Nye Lane Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8UB - Erection of single storey rear extension – no comment.</p> <p>6.3 SDNP/20/05756/TCA – 4 Boddington's Lane Ditchling BN6 8SS - cypress (T1) – fell – no comment.</p> <p>6.4 SDNP/21/00865/PA3R - Fourfields Farm Dumbrells Court Road Ditchling BN6 8GT - Change of use part of an agricultural building for Class A3 (restaurants and cafes) and Class D2 (assembly and leisure) – The Council object to the application due to it being the same as the previous application, SDNP/20/05699/PA3R with no further new documentation or explanation as to the reasoning for a new application. It was noted that the original application had been refused.</p> <p>6.5 SDNP/20/05860/HOUS - Cart Lodge Hayleigh Farm Westmeston - Erection of 1 x side and 2 x rear single storey extensions – It was noted the application was located in Westmeston Parish and the Council made no comment.</p> <p>6.6 SDNP/21/00398/FUL - Ridgeview Winery Fragbarrow Lane Ditchling - New hospitality suite within the existing winery and the creation of a new Al fresco area with associated landscaping. The Council have no objection, however wish to note that the lack of screening to the south and east of the site should be considered by the SDNPA Landscape Officer due to the intensification of the site.</p> <p>6.7 Any other applications received since publication of agenda – no further applications were received.</p>	
7.	<p>Parish Magazine Update</p> <p>It was noted that any articles should be submitted to the Deputy Clerk as early as possible, but the final deadline for the May edition of the magazine will be the 31 March 2021.</p>	
8.	<p>Car Park Update</p> <p>8.1 Update on progress of project, next stages and associated costs</p> <p>The Clerk advised that she is looking at costings for drawings in relation to directional signage and is going to also contact ESCC as to if this is something they can assist with. The application to discharge the planning conditions is in process but some queries have been raised over the lighting column that is incorporated into the design and feedback on this is due from the SDNP. It was felt that if this caused further delays it could be removed from the scheme if required. The Car Park Working Party will meet again on the 10 March when the updated draft specification should be available for discussion.</p> <p>An information schedule had also been circulated to all Councillors regarding the project showing approximate timelines and details of the ongoing work.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>Finance</p> <p>9.1 To receive the bank reconciliations. The reconciliations for all bank accounts were circulated dated 31.01.2021 and were resolved by the Council.</p> <p>9.2 To approve the schedule of payments for February 2021. The schedule of payments was circulated and the payments amounting to £7,445.48 were resolved by the Council.</p>	
10.	<p>Beacon Parish Traffic Group</p> <p>10.1 Update on funding and consultants.</p> <p>Cllr. Orme advised that the S106 funding from LDC/ESCC Highways should provide sufficient funding for the consultancy stage of the Traffic Project. As soon as the COVID restrictions allow</p>	

	<p>measurements of the bin and liaise with Cllr. Sansom as to the best location in the Recreation Ground Car Park.</p> <p>12.6 To consider request from Cricket Club for event – 7 July 2021.</p> <p>The Council resolved to approve the request for the event. It was also noted that the Cricket Club had asked the Council to review the hire charges for 2020 due to the COVID restrictions affecting the amount of cricket that was played during the season. This will be added to the March agenda.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>ICO (Information Commissioner’s Office)</p> <p>13.1 To note decision notice – complaint reference IC-43561-K4P2</p> <p>The Clerk informed the Council of the decision notice, detailed below. The full notice can be viewed on the ICO website.</p> <p>Decision (including any steps ordered)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The complainant has requested information regarding the lease for an area of land. 2. The Commissioner’s decision is that Ditchling Parish Council is entitled to rely upon regulation 12(4)(b) and that the public interest rests in maintaining this exception. The Commissioner also finds that, on the balance of probabilities, the council does not hold any further information within the scope of the request. However, the Commissioner finds that the council breached regulation 14(2) in its handling of the request. 3. The Commissioner does not require any steps. <p>The ICO have advised the Council of three further complaints. These will be allocated to Case Officers and the Council will be informed of further details and will have 20 days to respond.</p>	
14.	<p>Correspondence and Consultations</p> <p>14.1 Lewes District Local Plan - Land Availability Assessment -Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat Parishes – It was noted that LDC had sent through details of 4 sites (04DT/06DT/07DT & 08DT) that were included within earlier versions of the Land Availability Assessment and LDC confirmed comments on these sites would be welcomed based on the criteria in Appendix 1 Site Assessment Criteria of the Draft Methodology document. Cllr. Orme offered to put a draft response together and circulate via email as comments were required by the 12 March 2021. It was noted that other Parishes had raised concerns about the high number of sites that had been put forward within their Parish boundaries.</p> <p>14.2 LDALC Meeting minutes regarding impact of the expiration of the LDC Local Plan in May 2021 and possible associated costs in relation to employing a Planning Barrister – Cllr. McBeth reported on the meeting which raised concerns about the increased housing numbers and the possibility of Councils joining together to object to the numbers and using a Barrister for this purpose. The Council agreed that they would need further information and costings before considering the matter.</p> <p>14.3 Burgess Hill Town Council suggested Public Enquiry on Site Allocation SA12, SA13 and SA15. Following Cllr. Eggleston’s report to the Council it was agreed that the Council would await further details and costs in relation to supporting the use of a barrister to defend the objections made in relation to these sites.</p> <p>14.4 SDNPA Parking Supplementary Planning Document Consultation – amended draft document for comment by 18 March 2021 – noted, no comments made.</p> <p>14.5 SDNPA Camping and Glamping Technical Advice Note Consultation – for comment by 16 March 2021 – noted, no comments made.</p> <p>14.6 ESCC - Rural Verges as Wildlife Corridors – A Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting Trial – The Clerk had been informed about this trial from a resident in Underhill Lane, however it did not relate to Ditchling Parish but some other surrounding Parishes. The Council noted that it was probably the way forward to achieve cost savings and also support environmental issues and would await the results of the trial.</p>	
15.	<p>Written and verbal reports by representatives</p> <p>15.1 Village Hall Management Committee – no comments.</p> <p>15.2 Ditchling Village Association – no comments</p> <p>15.3 Ditchling Pavilion Club – The Clerk advised she had emailed in relation to obtaining an update with regard to the grant funding provided in 2019/20 but was awaiting a response.</p> <p>15.4 Lewes District Association of Local Councils – Cllr. McBeth noted a meeting is being held next week.</p>	
16.	<p>Future meeting dates and items for future agenda.</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting – 29 March 2021 at 6.30pm (remote meeting)</p>	

The meeting closed at 20.38 hrs.

Schedule of Payments for February 2021

Date	Payee Name	£ Total	Description
01/02/2021	BT	262.87	Phone/Broadband
01/02/2021	InReach Print	42.00	Photocopying
02/02/2021	SLCC	58.80	Clerk Training Course Fees
02/02/2021	Gould & Company	1,500.00	Car Park Project Fees Specification Stage
02/02/2021	Force10 Ltd	312.00	Mole control burial ground
04/02/2021	SGK Woodley	1,271.64	Parish Office redecoration
04/02/2021	SGK Woodley	168.00	Tree clearing
05/02/2021	SSALC Ltd	36.00	Clerk Training Course Fees
15/02/2021	SLCC	123.80	Local Council Administration 12th Edition
26/02/2021	InReach Print	42.00	Photocopying
26/02/2021	Staff Salaries	1,796.41	February Salaries
26/02/2021	HMRC	476.85	PAYE February
26/02/2021	East Sussex Pension Fund	492.37	Staff pensions
26/02/2021	Zoom Video Communications	14.39	Zoom Video Communications
16/02/2021	Viking	64.19	Printer cartridges
16/02/2021	Simon Woodley	640.16	Tree clearing/planting new trees/materials
16/02/2021	Simon Woodley	84.00	Grounds maintenance/emptying dehumidifier in office
16/02/2021	Peter Western (Internet Islands)	60.00	Website links from old site to new
	Total Payments:	7,445.48	