



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

Ditchling Village Hall 18 Lewes Road Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8TT
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Parish Clerk: Sarah Mamoany Deputy Clerk: Derek Blackhall

Minutes of the Ditchling Parish Council Meeting held at Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling on Monday 25 October 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs McBeth (Chairman), Sansom, Rowling, Jones, Farrands and Barna.

Sarah Mamoany (Clerk)
Derek Blackhall (Deputy Clerk)

7 members of the public

Public Participation:

A resident spoke in relation to the football pitch and if the Council had a long-term strategy and if they had considered the pavilion as part of that and the need that the two matters were connected. In addition, they asked if any strategic disposal of assets had been considered to fund the replacement of the pavilion.

The Ditchling Society representative noted planning application SDNP/21/04907/APNB Barn for use in connection with vineyard - Chalk House Beacon Road Ditchling BN6 8XB and that the Council had not commented on it. The Clerk advised that they had not been consulted on this application and would look into this.

A resident from Lodge Hill Lane spoke regarding the Council's decision to put in an application for double yellow lines along both sides of the lane rather than the suggestion of the residents to leave the area along the pond railings free from lines and also that no signage had been requested. The resident requested the Council reconsider their application as the parking by the pond would not cause obstructions if the remaining areas were restricted. They asked why the Council had made this decision. It was felt that submitting this request would provoke objections. Residents also felt signs were important to inform motorists of what they were entering; a narrow lane with parking restrictions.

1.	Declarations of Interest – No declarations of interest were made.	
2.	Apologies of absence – Apologies were received from Cllr. V. Ingham, Cllr. M. Madden and MP Maria Caulfield. Cllr. McBeth noted the resignation of Delia Forester. The appropriate Notice of Vacancy had been displayed on the website and noticeboard.	
3.	To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 27 September 2021 Cllr. Farrands queried the minutes of the previous meeting regarding the item relating to the traffic meeting held on the 5 th August 2021, noted in minute reference 8.1. The discussion was explained in further detail as Cllr. Farrands was not present at the Council meeting. The Clerk was requested to recirculate the traffic brief which had been previously agreed by the Council, together with the Terms of Reference for the Traffic Working Group.	

	<p>Cllr. Rowling commented on the minutes and the Council resolved the following amendments:</p> <p>Item 8.1 Beacon Parish Traffic Group - To add the wording 'and therefore had no standing' in the second sentence of the first paragraph. To add that it was resolved that Cllr. J. Barna was added to the Traffic Working Group.</p> <p>Item 15.2 to remove the word 'formally' in the second sentence.</p> <p>Following these amendments, the minutes were resolved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
4.	<p>Actions from previous minutes These were noted on the Clerks report.</p> <p>The tarmac contractor has been instructed, but due to weather conditions the work has not yet been completed.</p> <p>The contractor has been instructed to carry out the works to the ditches in the Recreation Ground, dependent on ground conditions, this should proceed w/c 25 October.</p> <p>Should Councillors wish to attend the Church Service after the Remembrance Parade a pew has been reserved for Parish Councillors.</p> <p>It was noted that no update was available on the traffic project; the balance of funds from the S106 had still not been received for the consultants' costs and the Clerk was requested to chase again and would also contact Cllr. Sarah Osbourne regarding the matter.</p>	<p>Councillors</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5.	<p>Clerks Report The Clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting to all Councillors.</p>	
6.	<p>Planning The following comments were resolved by the Council. 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 or https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/</p> <p>6.1 LW/21/0751 Clappers Janes Lane Wivelsfield East Sussex RH15 0SP demolition of the existing free-standing barn structure and erection of new oak frame triple garage and domestic gym room, demolition of existing garage annex and erection of new annex to form additional living space to property – no comment.</p> <p>6.2 SDNP/21/04592/HOUS & SDNP/21/04593/LIS - The Old Manor House Lodge Hill Lane Ditchling BN6 8SP - Replacement two rooflights and addition of a sun tunnel – no comment</p> <p>6.3 LW/21/0770 - Quinces Eastern Road Wivelsfield RH17 7QH - Demolition of existing garage, erection of single-storey side extension and detached 3-bay garage – no comment.</p> <p>6.4 SDNP/21/05132/TCA - 26 South Street Ditchling BN6 8UQ - T1 - magnolia - crown thinning/reduction by 30% to facilitate more light in the garden by reducing foliage and overhanging branches whilst keeping overall look and habitat T2 - weeping ash - this has die back and has been monitored and now needs felling for safety reasons T3/4 - intertwined quince and elder - crown reduction by 30% to lift away from house and prevent obstruction of path – no comment.</p> <p>6.5 SDNP/21/04773/HOUS – 16 North End Ditchling BN6 8TF - loft conversion, installation of dormers, replacement porch and associated landscaping to rear garden including erection of a verandah – no comment.</p>	

	<p>6.6 SDNP/21/04027/LIS – 2 East End Lane Ditchling BN6 8SX - Removal of brick bread oven to enlarge the kitchen, extending the underfloor heating under the kitchen and converting velux rooflight into conservation rooflight and adding a second conservation rooflight – no comment.</p> <p>6.7 LW/21/0770 - Quinces Eastern Road Wivelsfield RH17 7QH - demolition of existing garage, erection of single-storey side extension and detached 3-bay garage – no comment.</p> <p>6.8 DM/21/3311 - Land at Wintons and Wintons Fishery Folders Lane Burgess Hill RH15 0DR - Erection of 8 dwellings, alterations to site access, provision of car parking along with hard and soft landscaping. It was noted the application is on the border of Ditchling Parish and the SNDP and the Council resolved to object to the application due to lack of infrastructure, increased traffic and that the site is on the edge of the SDNP. Cllr. Rowling will liaise with the Clerk regarding policies that are relevant to making an objection and the draft response will be circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>6.9 LW/21/0729 - Land East Of, Ditchling Road, Wivelsfield -outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 96no. dwellings – The application is on the border of the Parish, the Council resolved to object to the application due to issues regarding lack of infrastructure such as schools, health care and additional traffic issues for Ditchling. The Clerk and Cllr. Rowling will draft a response which will be circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>6.10 Any other applications received since publication of agenda. Cllr. Rowling noted the Government consultation on supporting defence infrastructure and the future of time-limited permitted development rights. The timescale for responses was the 14 November and the Council resolved that a response would be drafted by Cllr. Rowling and circulated to all members prior to the Clerk submitting the response. It was felt this consultation was relevant to the issues surrounding the additional structures and tables/chairs that had been erected at The Bull and were affecting local residents.</p>	
7.	<p>Parish Magazine Update</p> <p>7.1 To consider report relating to options regarding publishing of magazine from 2022</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with the publisher of the magazine and the Council had two options to consider which were detailed in the report circulated. The Council resolved to hand the magazine back to the publisher and it would be the Ditchling Community Ad Magazine with no connection to the Parish Council. However, the Council would be able to contribute on a regular basis by providing editorial in the way of a report to update residents on the council's activities. It was discussed that this option would save officers time and the Council should utilise the new website more and direct residents to this for information. All current contributors contact details would be passed to the Community Ad publisher so they could liaise with them for future editorial. It was noted that authorisation would be needed prior to passing on details, due to GDPR. The magazine would now be published on a bi-monthly basis in the future. The Deputy Clerk will liaise with the publisher in relation to the decision.</p> <p>The final edition of the Ditchling Parish Magazine will be distributed in the next 2 weeks.</p>	Deputy Clerk
8.	<p>Car Park Update</p> <p>8.1 To receive update report on car park project</p> <p>The Clerk noted that the SDNP had responded in relation to the suggested matters raised to resolve the outstanding issues. The Clerk will liaise with GTA/HBA to obtain revised plans to reflect the amendments and hopefully satisfy the SNDP so the planning conditions can be discharged.</p>	Clerk

9.	<p>Finance</p> <p>9.1 To receive the bank reconciliations 31.09.2021. The bank reconciliations were circulated and resolved by the Council.</p> <p>9.2 To approve the schedule of payments for October 2021. The schedule of payments was circulated and the payments amounting to £15,702.80 was resolved by the Council.</p>	
10.	<p>Recreation Ground and Burial Ground</p> <p>10.1 Update on Football pitch availability and maintenance Ditchling Football Club advised they do not want the use of the pitch for 2021/22 season and are playing at Hassocks this season. The Clerk advised that interest had been shown from Plumpton Athletic Juniors Club and they are looking at the pitch to consider if they think they could use it this year. It was noted that the Council need to consider the long term if they can support both clubs as Plumpton are interested in a long-term commitment and would not wish to be removed if Ditchling FC return to the ground. The Council resolved to let Plumpton Athletic Juniors Club use the facilities this year, on the condition they understood no major maintenance work would be carried out and pitch inspections would need to be made prior to fixtures so that the facilities were not damaged if the ground conditions were not suitable. Cllr. Sansom offered to meet with a representative of Plumpton Athletics. No further work at this stage has been instructed as the pitch currently is not being used and the contractor advised that weed killer should be carried out in the spring. In relation to the queries raised by the member of the public, Cllr. McBeth noted that conversations had previously been had regarding the Scout Hut being sold in the future to raise funds to build a pavilion, but this was a major project and could not be considered until the car park had been completed. In addition, it would need to be looked at overall with the other plans for the Recreation Ground, such as the children's playground.</p> <p>10.2 To note repairs actioned in respect of health and safety matters The Clerk noted that the fencing in the playground has several posts that have rotted and need to be replaced. The main post on the large gate from Farm Lane has been replaced as it had rotted. The groundsman is repairing the playground fencing and also clearing along the side of the ditches.</p> <p>10.3 To note conservation issues with ash trees in relation to bats and mitigation to minimise risk Two trees in the recreation ground that have ash die back have evidence of them being used by bats for roosting. One tree is near the playground and of high risk, this is being monitoring and an environmentalist will inspect it later in the year. The other tree is at the northern end of the recreation ground and is of lower risk due to less traffic. However, it has been advised that chestnut palling fencing is erected around the bottom of the tree to stop people sitting directly under it and in the spring some wild flower seeds could be planted in the area of grass so it does not need to be cut and it would become a small conservation area.</p>	
11.	<p>Lodge Hill Lane Parking Restriction Application</p> <p>11.1 To approve draft application The Clerk had circulated the draft application which stated the following information.</p> <p><i>This narrow lane is experiencing severe issues with parking with increased use by visitors to the village who come to visit Ditchling, including those coming to walk, and visit the museum and church, which are nearby. The verges have been destroyed by cars/vans. In addition, concerns have been raised by East Sussex Fire and Rescue in relation to emergency vehicle access. Residents</i></p>	

	<p><i>have issues getting out of their driveways due to cars parked along the lane. However, the priority to this request is safety.</i></p> <p><i>Residents support the request for double yellow lines along the western side from its southern end up to Boddingtons Lane and on the eastern side where the lane narrows significantly beyond the entrance to Old Manor House, to Boddingtons Lane. Residents have also requested additional signage.</i></p> <p>The Council resolved to submit the application as noted. The Clerk will submit the application by the date of the 31st October.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p>Dame Vera Lyn Memorial</p> <p>12.1 To discuss memorial to commemorate Dame Vera Lynn An email was received from the The Village Hall Committee advising they had discussed the request to commemorate Dame Vera Lynn's life through the village hall and the trustees had spent time considering this over the past few months. They had agreed that they would be happy for the upper hall and stage area to be renamed as the "Dame Vera Lynn Upper Hall" with a commemorative plaque at the entrance to this area. With an alternative that the new notice board on the exterior and front of the hall could display a commemorative article about Dame Vera Lynn which would remain permanently in position on the board, perhaps set in a frame or similar.</p> <p>The information was discussed by the Council. Cllr. Jones spoke on behalf of the family and he felt that this offer would not be accepted by the them and requested the reason why the building could not be renamed. The Clerk will liaise further with the Village Hall Chair on the matter.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>Correspondence & Consultations</p> <p>13.1 Update from MP – this was noted by the Council. 13.2 Consultation – Road Closure Application – Tour of Sussex Ditchling Beacon 30th June 2022. It was noted that the road closure is on a bus route and LDC should be made aware of this. 13.3 Consultation – Gatwick Northern Runway Project – no comment.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>Written and verbal reports by representatives</p> <p>14.1 Village Hall Management Committee – no comments. 14.2 Ditchling Village Association – no comments 14.3 Ditchling Pavilion Club – no comments. 14.4 Lewes District Association of Local Councils – Cllr. McBeth advised the meeting due to be held was postponed until next week.</p>	
15.	<p>Future meeting dates and items for future agenda</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting – 29 November 2021 at 7pm in Ditchling Village Hall. Finance Committee Meeting – 15 November 2021 at 6pm in the Parish Office Staffing Committee Meeting – Date to be confirmed in November</p>	

The meeting closed at 20.30 hrs.

Schedule of Payments - Ditchling Parish Council - October 2021

Date	Payee Name	Amount £	Description
01/10/2021	Barcombe Landscapes	6,606.00	Grounds Maintenance May - Sept
01/10/2021	Cllr. Mercedes Madden	7.10	Reimbursement parking fees
01/10/2021	Anne Bott	350.00	Councillor/Staff training
01/10/2021	Lewes District Council	91.00	Burial ground bin emptying
01/10/2021	Lewes District Council	280.80	Dog bin emptying

04/10/2021	Defib Warehouse	289.95	Difib battery/pads
04/10/2021	Force10 Ltd	198.00	Mole control burial ground - September
04/10/2021	Force 10 Ltd	198.00	Mole control burial ground - August
06/10/2021	ESALC Ltd	48.00	Training Cllr. Rowling planning
20/10/2021	Ditchling Village Hall	67.00	Hall hire
26/10/2021	East Sussex Pension Fund	483.55	Staff pensions
26/10/2021	Staff Salaries	1,798.21	October staff salaries
26/10/2021	HMRC	474.36	PAYE October
25/10/2021	Simon Woodley	4,584.00	Hedgecutting, clearing/general main
25/10/2021	Simon Woodley	226.83	Repairs to gate posts, fencing in recreation ground

Total Payments: £15,702.80

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