



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ditchling Parish Council Meeting held at Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Barna, Farrands, Godley, Ingham, Madden (Chair) Orme, Rowling, Sansom and Seddon Tracey Euesden (Clerk)

Absent: Cllr Linstead

Also Present: District Councillor Paul Mellor

Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

141.	Apologies for absence. Were received from Cllr Stapleton
142.	Declarations of interest. Cllr Ingham declared an interest in item 18.
143.	To Approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 25th February 2025. the Minutes were APPROVED and were signed by the Chair. The revised Minutes of the meeting held on 26 th November were also signed.
144.	Actions from previous minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Min 30.1 Emergency / Resilience Plan. See agenda item.• Min 46.1 To arrange meeting with lantern manufacturers (Clerk)• Min 101.1 To commence drafting a Communications Strategy (All - ongoing)• Min 115.1 Solar light Column. Contact manufacturer to enquire about the condition of the column and whether the peeling paint would be covered under guarantee. (ongoing).• Min 130.5 To make contact with External Auditor (Clerk). Enquiry closed.• Min 134.1 To review list of streetlight replacements undertaken (VI) Ongoing.• Min 136.1 To Commission Housing Needs Survey. See agenda item
145.	Clerk's Report. The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda papers.
146.	Planning - for full details of planning applications listed below please go to ad or https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control The Following Applications were discussed. 6.1 <u>LW/25/0081. St Georges Farm.</u> Erection and siting of fibre exchange telecommunications infrastructure to provide a full fibre (gigabit) to the premises service. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT

146.2 **SDNP/2500916/TCA. 52 East End Lane.** T1 Ash – Fell to ground level with stump to remain – large split at base of trunk.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of **NO COMMENT**

146.3 **SDNP/25/01051/HOUS. 21-23 East End Lane.** Erection of frame front porch, replacement glazing to existing bay window, replacement of existing windows and erection of part single storey, part two storey rear extension to replace existing and works to include associated internal alterations.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of **NO COMMENT**

146.4 **SDNP/25/00993/LDE. Stocks Farm.** To establish the lawfulness of land that has been used as their residential garden in association with the dwellinghouse known as Downsview for over 10 years.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of **NO COMMENT**

146.5 **SDNP/24/05275/FUL St Margarets Church of England Primary School and Nursery.** Single storey timber clad extension to existing nursery outbuilding.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of **NO COMMENT**

146.6 **SDNP/25/00975/HOUS 7 Fieldway.** Loft conversion with front and rear dormers.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of **NO COMMENT.**

146.7 **LW/25/0071 Erection of up to 130 dwellings, together with the change of use of an existing barn for a flexible community and/or commercial use, along with associated outdoor space and landscaping, drainage infrastructure, hard and soft landscaping, parking, access and associated works (all matters reserved except for access) | Land East Of Lunce's Hill Haywards Heath East Sussex.** Cllr Orme highlighted this application which is partly in Mid-Sussex and partly in Lewes District, which, if approved, will have a significant impact upon the volume of traffic through Ditchling. As with other applications for mid to large scale development that will adversely impact upon traffic in this parish, Cllr Orme suggested that a submission be made Objecting to this proposal but , should the Planning Authority be minded to approve this application, S106 contributions should be secured to fund traffic mitigation measures in this parish.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would draft a response **OBJECTING** to this application and to request support from District Cllr Mellor, Hassocks Parish Council and the Mid-Sussex Member for Hassocks.

Enforcement Matters

146.8 **Ditchling Rugby Club.**

146.8.1 **Felling of Oak Tree subject to Tree Preservation Order.** The Ditchling Society has been advised that that the SDNPA has withdrawn its prosecution case due to a technical oversight in the case evidence. The Clerk was asked to write to the Authority to express disappointment that the Parish Council has not been informed of this decision and to enquire whether the prosecution process will be restarted.

	<p>146.8.1 <u>Erection of 2 shipping containers</u>. It was noted that a case has been lodged with Lewes District Council's Enforcement Officer regarding the erection of these shipping containers without the appropriate planning consent. The Clerk was asked to monitor this case.</p>
147.	<p>Finance</p> <p>147.1 To approve schedule of payments for March 2025 (plus any additional invoices to be noted at the meeting). Members had been provided with a revised schedule of payments The Payment Schedule was APPROVED.</p> <p>147.2 To receive bank reconciliations for February 2025. Cllr Orme reported that he had checked and signed the reconciliation documents which were NOTED.</p>
148.	<p>Recreation Ground & Burial Ground.</p> <p>148.1 Playground Project. Update on Meeting with preferred contractor and to consider application for CIL monies from SDNPA to support the project. As reported by the Clerk, A site meeting has been held with the preferred contractor to discuss adjustments to the tender proposals submitted. The idea of incorporating a tennis hitting wall as part of the MUGA / Ball wall has been mooted and the contractor will be exploring this and if feasible, will include an option for consideration in his final designs which will be shared when received.</p> <p>The application process for CIL Funding from the SDNPA has been re-opened with decisions due to be made in Autumn. However, projects may not commence prior to the decision being made so the Council is asked to consider if the installation date should be pushed back to later in 2025 in order for a funding application to be made. A discussion ensued about the possibility of the facility being in place for the summer months but it was suggested this was the prime period for use of all of the recreation ground facilities and an Autumn / Winter installation would be less disruptive.</p> <p>It was therefore RESOLVED: That the Clerk should make an application to the SDNPA for CIL monies to support the project.</p> <p>148.2 Cricket Club Fees 2024 – To Consider case for discount of fees for 2024 season. The Club has provided details of its unplanned expenditure as a result of the sinkhole on the recreation ground. The Clerk had previously made enquiries with Southern Water regarding compensation but had been advised that this could only be sought if Southern Water had been negligent. It was RESOLVED: To waive the Cricket Club's fees for the 2024 season and to submit a claim to Southern Water to cover the cost.</p> <p>148.3 To Approve use of recreation round for Village Sports Day 4th and 5th May 2025. The request was APPROVED.</p>
149	<p>Car Park</p> <p>149.1 Solar light Column. The Clerk is still awaiting details of the manufacturer's warranty to ascertain if the paint work can be rectified under the warranty. It was suggested that the Clerk also seek advice from a local contractor.</p>
150.	<p>Street Closure Application.</p> <p>150.1 To Consider response to application for the road closure for the annual Cycle Hill Climb and Run Time Trial. Closure of Beacon Road (Ditchling Bostall) at the intersection with Underhill Lane to the top ending opposite the entrance to Ditchling Beacon Car Park. Sunday 19th October 2025 from 7.30am to 12:30pm. It was RESOLVED to submit NO COMMENT.</p>
151.	<p>Safer Roads for Ditchling</p> <p>151.1 Update from Traffic Working Group. The notes from the last meeting of the working group had been distributed and Cllr Orme described the group's aim to reinstate the Traffic</p>

	Committee and invite representatives from local community groups and Westmeston Parish Council to work collaboratively on some of the priority projects. The matter of reforming the committee will be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting on 29 th April.
152.	<p>Streetlights</p> <p>152.1 Update on Replacement Schedule. Cllr Ingham had reviewed the list of lanterns to be replaced as priority and reported that others had been identified as no longer working since the last inspection. The Clerk reported that ESCC were about to undertake a night inspection and had agreed to share the findings. Following receipt of this information, Cllrs Ingham and Sansom would meet with the Clerk to update the replacement list and make a recommendation to the Council.</p> <p>152.2 Contract with ESCC. Advise from ESALC's solicitor has yet to be received.</p>
153.	<p>Footpath Improvements.</p> <p>153.1 Hassocks to Ditchling Footpaths. To consider request from Hassocks Parish Council to pursue improvements to footpaths via ESCC. A discussion took place regarding the various footpaths and the need for safer pedestrian routes between the two parishes. It was generally agreed to support the idea of improvements to the footpaths with priority being for the lower Roman Road (path DIT47/2). The Clerk was asked to clarify the proposals from Hassocks.</p>
154.	<p>Action in rural Sussex Housing Needs Survey.</p> <p>154.1 To Consider draft documents and suggestions for advertising the survey. Cllr Orme reported that he had attended a meeting of the Community Land Trust Steering Group who would be suggesting some ideas on how to advertise the survey and offering feedback to AirS regarding the draft document. The Parish Council's comments would also be shared with both groups.</p>
155.	<p>Documents for Approval.</p> <p>155.1 To Consider draft Community Resilience Plan. The draft document had been circulated and it was noted that the contacts and resources pages would need to be populated prior to adoption.</p> <p>155.2 To Approve Updates to NALC Model Financial Regulations. It was RESOLVED: That the document will be amended to reflect the changes to regulations 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11.</p>
156	<p>Events.</p> <p>156.1 VE Day – 80th Anniversary – Thursday 8th May 2025. The Royal British Legion will be holding a brief service at the War Memorial on 8th May and will be hosting a commemoration Tea in Westmeston Parish Hall on Sunday 11th May from 2.30pm.</p> <p>156.2 Ditchling Village Association – Newcomer's Party - Sat April 12, 2025.</p> <p>156.3 James MacCleary MP – Meet and Greet event. 29th July 2025 5-6:30pm</p>
157.	<p>Next meeting date.</p> <p>139.1 Parish Council Meeting 29th April 2025.to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>
158.	<p>CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - <i>Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public will be excluded from the following items on the grounds that the confidential matters to be discussed under item 140.1 below would be prejudicial in the public interest.</i></p> <p>158.1 Ditchling Gardens – Update on Sales Process. A discussion took place about the latest developments and the Clerk would be seeking advice from the Sales Agent about the next steps.</p>

	<p>Actions taken forward.</p> <p>From previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Min 46.1 To arrange meeting with lantern manufacturers (Clerk)• Min 101.1 To commence drafting a Communications Strategy (All)• Min 129.1 To draw up paper containing budget projections (R Sansom / Clerk)• <p>From this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Min 146.7 To draft letter of Objection (Clerk)• Min 148.1 To apply for CIL Funding (Clerk)• Min 148.2 To submit claim for compensation from Southern Water (Clerk)• Min 153.1 To seek clarification of proposals for footpaths (Clerk) <p>Items for next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinstatement of Traffic Committee• Burial Ground Inspections.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.