



## DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

Ditchling Village Hall 18 Lewes Road Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8TT  
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### Minutes of the Ditchling Parish Council Meeting held at Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm

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

Absent: Cllr Linstead

Public Participation: 3 members of the public were present.

159.	<b>Apologies for absence.</b> Were received from Cllr Stapleton
160.	<b>Declarations of interest.</b> Cllr Ingham declared an interest in item 18.
161.	<b>To Approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</b> the Minutes were <b>APPROVED</b> and were signed by the Chair.
162.	<p><b>Actions from previous minutes.</b></p> <p>From previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 46.1 To arrange meeting with lantern manufacturers (Clerk)</li> <li>• Min 101.1 To commence drafting a Communications Strategy (All)</li> <li>• Min 129.1 To draw up paper containing budget projections (RSansom / Clerk (ongoing)</li> <li>• Min 146.7 To draft letter of Objection - Completed</li> <li>• Min 148.1 To apply for CIL Funding - Completed</li> <li>• Min 148.2 To submit claim for compensation from Southern Water (Clerk)</li> <li>• Min 153.1 To seek clarification of proposals for footpaths -See agenda Item.</li> </ul>
163.	<b>Clerk's Report.</b> The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda papers.
164.	<p><b>Planning - for full details of planning applications listed below please go to ad or <a href="https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control">https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control</a></b></p> <p>The Following Applications were discussed.</p> <p>164.1 <b><u>SDNP/25/01244/HOUS The Garden House, Beacon Road.</u></b> Demolition of conservatory and erection of rear extension and infill extension to garage and first floor extension over garage.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to submit a comment of <b>NO COMMENT</b></p>

	<p>164.2 <b><u>SDNP/25/01407/HOUS and 01408/LIS 8 High Street.</u></b> Restoration of 3 no windows on the west and south elevations and retrospective permission for the rear north boundary garden fence and gate.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to submit a comment of <b>NO COMMENT</b></p> <p>164.3 <b><u>SDNP/25/01374/HOUS Lime Tree House, Hideaway Place.</u></b> Erection of two storey side extension. Councillors noted that the planning application for the original development cited the fact that it was providing smaller homes to comply with the SDNP's policy which supports dwellings of 3 bedrooms or less, and to avoid overcrowding, as part of its case for approval. Under these circumstances,</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to submit a comment of <b>OBJECTION</b></p> <p>164.4 <b><u>SDNP/25/01705/HOUS and 01706/LIS 80 East End Lane.</u></b> Taking down parts of damaged outbuilding and rebuilding over a larger footprint including open carport / Rebuilding existing workshop outbuilding.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to submit a comment of <b>NO COMMENT</b></p> <p>General comments were made about the incidents of applications being validated without sufficient information and the Clerk was asked to relay this to the Planning Authority.</p>
165.	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>165.1 To approve schedule of payments for April 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 <b>APPROVED</b>.</p> <p>165.2 To receive bank reconciliations for March 2025. Cllr Orme reported that he had checked and signed the reconciliation documents which were <b>NOTED</b>.</p> <p>165.3 To receive final budget 2024 2025. Members had been provided with a copy of the final budget for the previous financial year. The document was <b>NOTED</b>.</p>
166.	<p><b>Recreation Ground &amp; Burial Ground.</b></p> <p>166.1 Playground Project. Update on Meeting with preferred contractor to finalise design. Cllr Farrands reported that further discussions and meetings had been held with the contractor which have proved valuable and constructive. It is hoped that a final design will be presented at the May meeting.</p> <p>166.2 Burial Ground Inspections – To arrange for commencement of Inspections. Following complaints regarding the condition of some plots, A template letter had been circulated for use in cases where plots are in need of attention. Cllr Rowling offered to liaise with the Clerk to undertake a full inspection in the next few weeks with follow up visits to be undertaken on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>166.3 To Consider application for Exclusive Right of Burial from a non-parishioner. An application for a grave space had been made by person who has family connections in the parish and previously lived in Ditchling for several years before moving away. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Burial Ground Policy does not currently restrict grave spaces to residents of the parish, it was noted that the cost of maintenance and upkeep was paid for by them via the precept. The matter was discussed and it was reluctantly decided to decline the application on this occasion.</p>
167.	<p><b>Safer Roads for Ditchling</b></p> <p>167.1 To receive notes from Traffic Working Group meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March. The notes from the last meeting of the working group had been distributed. Cllr Orme reported that the</p>

	<p>implementation of Mobile Speed Indicator Devices and Village Gateways on Underhill Lane were being progressed with Wilbar Associates.</p> <p>167.2 To Consider Re-instatement of Traffic Committee, agree Terms of Reference and to Appoint a Chairman. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Traffic Committee would be re-instated with Cllr Stapleton as the Chairman. The Terms of Reference were <b>APPROVED</b>.</p>
168.	<p><b>Streetlights</b></p> <p>168.1 Update on Replacement Schedule. Cllrs Ingham and Sansom will shortly be meeting with the Clerk to discuss the replacement schedule and to decide upon the next lanterns to be fitted.</p> <p>168.2 Contract with ESCC. Members had been provided with a copy of Surrey Hills Solicitors' proposed letter to ESCC and with some minor amendments, this has been sent.</p>
169.	<p><b>Footpath Improvements.</b></p> <p>169.1 Hassocks to Ditchling Footpaths. To consider request from Hassocks Parish Council to pursue improvements to footpaths via ESCC. Hassocks Parish Council has been in discussions with the Monday Group regarding proposals to improve the Old Roman Road footpath (DIT 47/2). The proposals involve laying hard surface materials in accordance with West Sussex specifications and Ditchling Parish Council is being asked to pursue a similar agreement with East Sussex for this path and the Bridleway (DIT 46/3). It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Clerk should explore the possibilities with ESCC.</p>
170.	<p><b>Fingerposts</b></p> <p>170.1 To Consider process to follow for fingerposts requiring repair. The Clerk has received a number of reports of damaged fingerposts in the parish. it was suggested that she make enquiries with Westmeston Parish Council who has engaged a local contractor to undertake repairs and also research ESCC's match funding scheme for the repair / replacement of fingerposts.</p>
171.	<p><b>Defibrillator at Village Hall</b></p> <p>171.1 To Approve purchase of replacement cabinet and installation. The Clerk had reported that the existing cabinet was broken and the cost of replacing it at £525.60 including VAT was <b>APPROVED</b>.</p>
172	<p><b>Events.</b></p> <p>172.1 VE Day – 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The Royal British Legion will be holding a brief service at the War Memorial on 8<sup>th</sup> May and will be hosting a commemoration Tea in Westmeston Parish Hall on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 2.30pm.</p> <p>172.2 Maverick Race – Trail running event – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025.</p>
173	<p><b>Next meeting date.</b></p> <p>173.1 Parish Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council</p>
174.	<p><b>CONFIDENTIAL SESSION</b> - <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 a meeting was being planned with the developer and his architect.</p>
	<p><b>Actions taken forward.</b></p> <p><b>From previous meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 46.1 To arrange meeting with lantern manufacturers (Clerk)</li> <li>• Min 101.1 To commence drafting a Communications Strategy (All)</li> </ul>

- Min 129.1 To draw up paper containing budget projections (R Sansom / Clerk)
- Min 148.2 To submit claim for compensation from Southern Water (Clerk)

**From this meeting:**

- Min. 166.2 To carry out inspection of burial ground (ER / Clerk)
- Min 169.1 Make contact with ESCC regarding footpath improvements (Clerk)
- Min 170.1 Contact Westmeston PC and ESCC regarding fingerpost improvements (Clerk)

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.

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