



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ditchling Parish Council Meeting held at Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling on Tuesday 24th June 2025

Present: Cllrs Madden (Chair), Barna, Farrands, Ingham, Orme, Rowling, Sansom, Seddon and Stapleton.

Tracey Euesden (Clerk)

District Councillor Paul Mellor

Public Participation:

6 members of the public were present at the meeting.

21.	Apologies of absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Godley
22.	To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 27th May 2025. The minutes of the meeting were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
23.	Actions from previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min 101.1 To commence drafting a Communications Strategy (All) Ongoing. • Min 129.1 To draw up paper containing budget projections (R Sansom / Clerk) Ongoing. • Min 166.2 To carry out inspection of burial ground (ER / Clerk) Ongoing. • Min 169.1 Make contact with ESCC regarding footpath improvements (Clerk) Ongoing • Min 170 Contact Westmeston PC and ESCC regarding fingerpost improvements. (Clerk) Awaiting response.
24.	Clerk's report. The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda papers.
25.	Planning The following Applications were discussed. 25.1 LW/25/0257 Land Adjacent to Fragbarrow Lane. Siting of 3x timber cabins for overnight guest use, external timber decking areas, permeable footpaths and associated work with existing access, parking, turning area and recycling/refuse storage will be utilised. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT 25.2 SDNP/25/02234/HOUS 14 Beacon Road. Erection of 2no hip to gable extensions, single storey extension to front single storey to rear and 3no rear pitched dormer to main house, along with external recladding and replacement of windows. Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage with ancillary accommodation. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT 25.3 SDNP/25/02427/TCA – 72 East End Lane. T1 Lawson Cypress – reduce crown by 2m, T2 Lawson Cypress - reduce crown by 2m, H1 Mixed Hedge reduce size by 2.5-3m

	<p>It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT</p> <p>25.4 SDNP/25/02427/TCA – 107 East End Lane. Cedar (T1) reduce end weight of overextended laterals by up to 2m, balance crown by up to 1m to reduce loading on larger limbs, to prevent stress fractures such as the one on the lowest limb- over the neighbour's garden.</p> <p>Mulberry (T2) – reduce crown by 2m – excessive shading.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT</p>
26.	<p>Finance</p> <p>26.1 To approve schedule of payments for June 2025. The schedule of payments for May were APPROVED.</p> <p>26.2 To Receive Bank Reconciliations for May 2025. Cllr. Orme had reviewed the reconciliations which were NOTED.</p> <p>26.3 Quarterly Budget Update 2025 2026. Members had been provided with a copy of the position at 31st May and the document was duly NOTED.</p>
27.	<p>Recreation Ground & Burial Ground</p> <p>27.1 To receive final designs and consider approval of quotation. Cllr Farrands introduced the final designs of the children's playground and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), which he reported contains new and exciting apparatus for use by children of various ages. Referring to guidelines cited by nearby residents and in correspondence received, Cllr Farrands gave clarification of the measurements of the extended surface area and goal wall and their distance from neighbouring properties and reminded Members that this project is to replace equipment that is already in situ but is nearing the end of its lifespan and in poor condition. The only additions to the existing facilities are the extended surface area and to include the tree immediately outside of the playground inside the fence line. The matter of installing a tennis hitting wall or other structure at the western end of the MUGA area is still to be resolved.</p> <p>In response to suggestions that the proposals will attract an increase in anti -social behaviour and cause harm to the younger children using the playground, Members could see no evidence to support this. Cllr Farrands commented that the proximity of the MUGA to the playground means that parents and carers of children of mixed ages, are able to supervise them whilst playing with the various equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Farrands confirmed that the project does not include significant excavation works that might have an impact on the roots of the trees in the area and Cllr Ingham reminded Members that the Parish Council carried out regular surveys of the trees and these would identify any problems in the future.</p> <p>After further discussion Cllr Orme Proposed, Seconded Cllr Farrands, All in Favour and RESOLVED:: <i>To Accept the design and Approve the quotation with a start dates for the project to be arranged after the result of the CIL application is known.</i></p> <p>Cllr Stapleton enquired whether the installation cost was a fixed price and requested that the Clerk obtain this information.</p>
28.	<p>Streetlights</p> <p>28.1 Update on Lantern Replacement Schedule. The Clerk had requested a quotation for batch works to replace 4 further lanterns. The residents at 1-3 South Street had been in touch regarding the lantern removed from the property during the recent renovation works. They raise concerns about the condition of the lantern and whether it should be re-attached to the building in its current state. They also queried whether a Valentino lantern would require planning permission to be attached to a listed building and whether a light is required in that area at all when there are lit road signs at all junctions. Cllr Sansom commented that lanterns</p>

	<p>similar in style to the existing ones were available to purchase and whilst the council has resolved to use the Valentino style in its replacement programme, an exception could be made in this case as it is to be attached to a listed building.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <p><i>That the Clerk should seek clarification whether planning permission would be required and to provide both designs for the Local Planning Authority's views. Should the lantern need be replaced, it was agreed that the parish council would purchase it.</i></p> <p>28.2 Contract with ESCC – Update from solicitor. ESCC has now responded to the solicitors' letter and will be reviewing the content of the contract. A further response is expected in the autumn.</p>
29.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>29.1 Ditchling Common Country Park. Future management consultation 6th June to 4th July. It was RESOLVED:</p> <p><i>That Cllr Rowling would draft a response to the consultation and circulate to Councillors for comment.</i></p> <p>29.2 ESCC – Local Government Re-organisation. Initial responses invited by 30th June 2025 . It was RESOLVED:</p> <p><i>That the Clerk should respond highlighting reservations regarding the impact of the organisational changes on rural parishes and request that the Parish Council be kept informed of the process and consulted Further.</i></p>
30.	<p>Future meeting dates Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 29th July 2024</p>
31	<p><i>CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - 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>31.1 Ditchling Gardens – Update on Sales Process. The solicitor had drafted a contract of sale and councillors' comments had been relayed back. The Clerk was asked to request a tracked version to ensure that these comments have been incorporated in the revised document.</p>
	<p>Actions taken forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min 101.1 To commence drafting a Communications Strategy (All) Ongoing. • Min 129.1 To draw up paper containing budget projections (R Sansom / Clerk) Ongoing. • Min 166.2 To carry out inspection of burial ground (ER / Clerk) Ongoing. • Min 169.1 Make contact with ESCC regarding footpath improvements (Clerk) Ongoing • Min 170 Contact Westmeston PC and ESCC regarding fingerpost improvements. (Clerk)

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.