



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

Ditchling Village Hall 18 Lewes Road Ditchling East Sussex
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Minutes of the Ditchling Parish Council Meeting held at Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling on Tuesday 24th February 2026

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

Tracey Euesden (Clerk)

Also Present

No Members of the public were present.

125.	Public Participation. There were no members of the public present.
126.	Apologies of absence – Apologies were received from Cllrs Rowling and Seddon.
127.	Declarations of Interest. Cllr Orme declared an interest in agenda item 12 and Cllr Ingham declared an interest in agenda items 7.2 and 18.1
128.	To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 27th January 2026. The minutes of the meeting were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
129.	Actions from previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Min. 110 - Contact owners of properties with streetlight attached to advise of process if a problem occurs. To be actioned• Min 113.2 - Asset Transfer – Complete expression of interest form (Clerk). Completed• Min 118 – Pavilion Lease – draw up list of conditions for lease (All). Ongoing
130.	Clerk’s report and correspondence received. The Clerk’s report had been circulated with the agenda papers. Correspondence regarding dog waste has been received and will be discussed by the Council at its next meeting.

131.	<p>131.1 Local Governance Review. (LGR). As District Councillor Mellor was not present, no update was available.</p> <p>131.2 Lewes District Council Asset Devolution.- To Consider applying to LDC for transfer of asset – Village Hall Car Park. As agreed at the last meeting, an expression of interest has been submitted for the potential transfer of the village hall car park. This is to be considered by LDC in the next few days and following the outcome, a meeting is to be arranged to discuss.</p>
132.	<p>Planning The following Applications were discussed.</p> <p>132.1 SDNP/25/04278/LIS – 6 Church Lane. Removal of internal blocked doorway at ground floor level to bring 4 and 6 Church Lane together. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT</p> <p>132.2 SDNP/15/05138/HOUS & SDNP/25/05139/LIS – 28 High Street. Two storey rear extension with internal and fenestration alterations. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT</p> <p>132.3 SDNP/26/00398/FUL - Oakmill Barn. Conversion of roof space of barn to form permanent rural workers dwelling in connection with equine rehabilitation business. Concerns were raised that this application to turn the previously approved temporary rural workers dwelling into a permanent dwelling is premature as there has been insufficient time to demonstrate the viability of the business. It was suggested that the equine rehabilitation element of the business should be established for a period of 3 years before an assessment can be made about the need for a permanent dwelling. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of OBJECTION stating the comments above.</p> <p>132.4 SDNP/26/00678/TPO - 5 Emmett Gardens. T12 Ash – Remove dead limbs and carry out 20% crown reduction. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT</p> <p>132.5 SDNP/26/00121/TCA. 3 Emmet Gardens. T1 Lime – Reduce height by 2.0m, T2 Oak – Reduce height by 2.0m and crown radius by 2.0m, T3 Pollard back to previous. It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO COMMENT</p>
133.	<p>Streetlights</p> <p>133.1 Damaged Column on Farm Lane. Update and to consider insurance claim for replacement column and lantern. Confirmation of the cost to replace the column and lantern has now been received at £3,187.30. Cllr Sansom raised concerns that the Valentino style lantern may not be appropriate for this area as much of the light provided would be lost amongst the vegetation. He suggested that a different style be considered. UKPN had advised that it could not give permission for a lantern to be fitted to the existing wooden pole as it was a BT asset and the Clerk was therefore asked to contact BT with the same request.</p>

134.	<p>Finance</p> <p>134.1 To approve schedule of payments for February 2026. The schedule of payments for February was APPROVED</p> <p>134.2 To Receive Bank Reconciliations for January 2026. Cllr Orme had reviewed the reconciliations which were NOTED.</p>
135.	<p>Recreation and Burial Ground</p> <p>135.1 Update on Playground Equipment Installation. The scheduled start date has still been delayed due to poor weather conditions and the Clerk has requested a new site visit by the Contractor to assess whether a new date can be planned.</p>
136.	<p>Ditchling Community Land Trust (CLT) Steering Group</p> <p>136.1 Update from Cllr Orme. Cllr Orme reported that the group would be meeting shortly to decide on forming a legal entity and are being supported in the process by Action in rural Sussex.</p>
137.	<p>The Monday Group</p> <p>137.1 To suggest projects for the next 12 months. Suggestions were made for improvements to various Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Cllr Madden and the Clerk will meet with the group to discuss.</p>
138.	<p>Annual Meeting of the Parish</p> <p>138.1 To discuss content and preparation for meeting. It was agreed that presentations of approximately 5 minutes would be prepared as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Parish Council’s activities over the last year (Chairman’s report) by Cllr Madden. • Ditchling Playground Project by Cllr Farrands • Plans for Traffic Projects and Impact upon precept by Cllr Stapleton • Plans for the Pavilion at Ditchling Recreation Ground by a representative of the Cricket Club. <p>A discussion took place about whether to include the potential transfer of the car park at the Village Hall and whilst it was very early stages with no discussion taking place with LDC as yet, it was noted that the subject would be of importance to the community and the council should at least provide what information it could at the meeting.</p> <p>Publicity for the meeting will be by way of social media and posters and leaflets being put on noticeboards and in various outlets in the village. It was AGREED: <i>That Cllrs Sansom and Madden would support the Clerk with the preparation for the meeting with each presenter providing the content of their presentation in advance.</i></p>
139.	<p>Traffic.</p> <p>139.1 Safe Places to cross- To consider proposals from Cllr Stapleton to commission detailed designs and plans for crossing points at various locations in the village and to assign a budget for the project. Cllr Stapleton presented his proposal document which had been drawn up with input from the Traffic Working Group. He also provided information from Wilbar about the costs associated with the suggestions made as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>20 Mph Scheme – No further action to be taken at this stage - £840 (incurred)</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Crossings x 4 – to work up design proposals for the locations agreed, to submit to ESCC For comment / approval and to provide budget estimate for construction. - £1,440 (partly Incurred).</i></p>

	<p><i>Potential for ESCC to require a Road Safety Audit to be carried out for each site at approximately £400 per audit. Total £1.200 (not confirmed).</i></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that sufficient funds are available within the current year budget.</p> <p>Cllrs Sansom and Farrands expressed support for the plans and Cllr Sansom Proposed, Seconded Cllr Farrands and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED: <i>To commission Wilbar Associates to proceed with the detailed design of the 4 recommended new crossing points with intention that draft schemes with costings for construction to be ready for the May public meeting.</i></p> <p>Referring to the original 4 priority projects, disappointment was expressed that a workable scheme at the village crossroads and the extension to the 20 mph zone were unlikely to be progressed after initial dialogue with ESCC and following Wilbar's assessment, however, it was noted that the recent installation of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) had been met positively by the community. It was suggested that further exploration of the other sites included in the 2023 report by Motion be undertaken with ESCC's Road Safety Team.</p>
140.	<p>Financial Regulations</p> <p>140.1 To consider temporary suspension of Financial Regulation 5.8 in order to appoint Wilbar Associates to carry out the design work detailed in agenda item 15.1 As the costings provided by Wilbar are lower than anticipated, this item was not discussed.</p>
141.	<p>Next Meeting Date. 24th March 2026.</p> <p>To include a presentation by Trevor Leggo, (CEO, ESALC) on Local Government Reorganisation and its effect on Parish and Town Councils.</p>
142.	<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 142 below would be prejudicial in the public interest.</i></p> <p>142.1 Ditchling Gardens – To consider next steps following removal of the property from the market and agree new Terms of Reference for Ditchling Gardens Working Party. A discussion took place and the Terms of Reference for Ditchling Gardens Working Party were APPROVED.</p>
	<p>Actions taken forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min. 110 - Contact owners of properties with streetlight attached to advise of process if a problem occurs. (Clerk) • Min 118 – Pavilion Lease – draw up list of conditions for lease (All). • Min 131.2 - LDC Asset Transfer – To arrange meeting (Clerk) • Min 133.1 - Streetlight on Farm Lane – Contact BT (Clerk) • Min 137.1 - Monday Group. To arrange meeting (MM and Clerk) • Min 138.1 - Presentations for Annual Parish Meeting (MM, PF, R Stapleton) • Min 139.1 - Contact ESCC Road Safety Team re SID Locations.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.