DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL
Ditchling Village Hall 18 Lewes Road Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8TT Tel: 01273 844733 Email: parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk
www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Ditchling Parish Council Meeting held at Ditchling Village Hall, on Wednesday 9th September 2026

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

Tracey Euesden (Clerk)

52.	**Public Participation.** No members of the public were present.
53.	**Apologies of absence** – Apologies were received from Cllrs Godley and Rowling
54.	**Declarations of Interest.** No Interests were declared.
55.	**Safer Crossings for the Village** 55.1 **To Consider whether the proposed safer crossings schemes should be approved in their current form and whether further consideration needs to be given to their suitability both in terms of safety and cost.** Following the Strategic Planning Event on 28th August, some councillors had raised concerns that some of the proposed designs do not include sufficient traffic calming measures and questioned their effectiveness in providing a benefit to the community. Each location was discussed in detail. *Beacon Road:* Cllr Sansom had previously highlighted Government and county council advice which encourages additional traffic calming measures for uncontrolled crossings on roads with high traffic volumes and speeding such as Beacon Road. It was noted that the original Motion report included additional features such as road markings and raised tables but these would make the project cost prohibitive and are no longer supported by ESCC's Road Safety Team (RST). It was also noted that the RST had provided feedback on the design as proposed and apart from the need for some vegetation to be cut back, the overall view was that the crossing would be of benefit to the community. *Keymer Road:* It was generally felt that the introduction of an uncontrolled crossing would be a positive installation in this area and would provide safer access to the new car park. Visual safety measures such as posts with reflective strips should be

	included in the design if possible. *Lewes Road, East End Lane*: It had been suggested that an uncontrolled crossing point would not prove beneficial in this area due to the relatively low volume of traffic in the area at off peak times. However, it was argued that during school pick up and drop off times, the area was chaotic with inconsiderate parking and levels of vehicle movements. Cllr Barna reminded the council that the school parents and carers have campaigned for crossing solutions in the past would likely welcome any safety measures. Cllr Stapleton reported that he had arranged to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss ways to address the traffic problems and would report back to the council. *Lewes Road, Recreation Ground:* Similar to the previous location, questions were raised regarding the necessity to install a crossing here when there are warning signs and a Speed Indicator Device is being planned and vehicle movements are relatively low at off peak times. As a very close resident, Cllr Roberts acknowledged the lower volume of traffic but said that there are people crossing at all times of the day visiting the recreation ground and facilities. Visibility issues for drivers and pedestrians exiting the car park were also referred to. Cllr Stapleton reminded the council that the Traffic Working Group had been exploring various traffic calming measures over the last 4 years and had engaged with various experts who have provided guidance and advice as to what can be done to benefit the community of Ditchling. He stated that visual safety measures such as posts with reflective strips would be included in each of the designs where possible and he assured members that their concerns will be raised with the traffic consultants and RST for comment. It was noted that a Road Safety Audit would be undertaken as part of the RST's full assessment of the proposals and any additional measures identified would be addressed. Cllr Stapleton Proposed the following motion: ***That the Parish Council Adopts each of the 4 schemes.*** Seconded Cllr Farrands. For: 7, Against: 2. **Motion Carried.** 55.2 **To Consider whether alternative funding sources should be explored in place of, or in addition to an increase in precept.** Cllr Orme had put forward a suggestion that the Council could consider applying for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board as an alternative to funding the crossings project through the precept. He had suggested that a smaller increase to cover the loan repayments may be a more palatable option for the community. It was noted that part of the process would require approval from the Secretary of State who would require evidence of a formal public consultation showing approximately 30% responses in favour. A debate ensued about the pros and cons of the PWLB vs an increase in precept with some arguing that the Loan option would only fund the current project. If the council wishes to pursue other priorities identified during the Strategic Planning Event, then further borrowing may need to be considered whereas a permanent increase to the Precept would allow for additional schemes to be progressed in the future. Cllr Stapleton Proposed the following motion: ***That the Council presents its plans to increase the Precept by circa 50% at the Public Exhibition being planned for 31st October.*** Seconded Cllr Orme. For: 9, Against 0. **Motion Carried.** 55.3 **To Agree next steps.** The following actions were agreed: • Cllr Orme to update Business Plan • Public exhibition to go ahead on 31st October • Council's recent and planned projects to be exhibited.

	• Finance Committee Meeting to be arranged to draft recommendations for budget & Precept 2027 2028, for consideration by the Full Council.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm