

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 10th June 2014 at 8pm.

Present D. McBeth in the Chair, Mrs N. Banfield, Mrs M. Bolton, A.T. Jones, M. Madden, P.M. Smith, G. Wheeler and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies Mrs B. Brittain (hospital) Mrs C.M. Robinson

The Chairman welcomed G. Wheeler as a co-opted member of the Council.

29 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 27th May having been circulated were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

30. Minute 22 Grounds Following the informal Grounds Committee meeting and the informal meeting with the Clubs (notes of both meetings had been circulated), P. M. Smith outlined the current position: suggested new hire charges had been discussed, details of ground maintenance etc had been received from LDC, the maintenance charges could possibly be reduced to £12,000 per annum; even with the Club rents being raised to cover 50% of the cost the shortfall would have to be met through the precept. Following the last meeting with the Clubs, an email had been received from the Rugby Club stating that they would be relocating elsewhere as they needed two pitches of high quality in order to progress. The Clubs were concerned about the hire charges but the Council had to ensure that they were raised on a fair basis, a review of charges was due and there was a need to raise the additional £5,000 to £7,000 per annum. The withdrawal of the Rugby Club meant that it would not be match funding £5,000 for the project as had been hoped. It was also noted that a message had been received that evening from the Phillipson Trust who had committed to be the main match funder (£50,000) as follows "The commitment is under review pending a better understanding as to how the ongoing maintenance costs are going to be apportioned" There followed a discussion. The following motion was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously

1 The Council agrees to instruct TGMS to invite contractor tenders for the works based on a "drainage only solution" and to evaluate those tenders in advance of the letting of a works contract to be signed (subject to the approval of the Council) at a later stage.

2 The Council agrees that further detailed discussions take place with all the sports clubs and funders to resolve all outstanding issues including future hire charges, pitch utilisation and financial contributions.

3 The Council agrees in principle that the Parish precept be increased to contribute towards the additional ongoing maintenance costs necessitated by the pitch improvements.

4. The Council agrees to inform Sport England and its other funders of its revised strategy following the decision of the Ditchling Rugby Club to withdraw from the project.

It was also agreed to approve £800 as suggested by Phil Smith to go out to tender to find out the actual costs for the drainage this would not commit the Council to accepting a tender.

31. Planning application

Case No: SDNP/14/02081/HOUS Closing Date for comments: 24 June 2014

Case Officer: Miss Michelle Gardiner (Lewes DC)

Location: 31 East End Lane Ditchling Hassocks East Sussex BN6 8SX

Proposal: Demolition of existing sun room and construction of new sun room with lean-to pitched roof, single storey rear extension, conversion of existing roof space into habitable accommodation to include dormer windows to the front and rear elevations and new rendering, tile hanging, windows and doors

There was no comment on the demolition of existing sun room and construction of new sun room with lean-to pitched roof, single storey rear extension. It was agreed to object to the conversion of the roof space on the following grounds. The proposed roof conversion by virtue of its form and appearance would fail to respect and integrate with overall scale and character of the dwelling. The conversion fails to respect, compliment and integrate with the scale and appearance of the existing dwelling and is considered to be incongruous and dominating in relation to the building and the wider surroundings. The conversion proposed fails to respect the character and setting of the adjacent properties and would have a domineering effect on them. It was agreed to support the two letters of objection from neighbouring properties.

Chairman

24th June 2014