

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 8pm.

Present D. Mc Beth in the Chair, Mrs N. Banfield, Mrs B. Brittain, Mrs C.M. Robinson, D. Carpenter, A.T. Jones, M. Madden, P.M. Smith, and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies Mrs M Bolton (away),

259. Appointment of Chairman Following the resignation of Roy Burman, the Council needed to appoint a new Chairman. The procedure for this was followed by D. McBeth asking for nominations. It was proposed by A.T. Jones, seconded by P.M. Smith that D. McBeth be elected Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.

260. Declaration of Acceptance of Office D. McBeth signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

261. Appointment of Vice Chairman Following the resignation of Mrs Yvonne Sen, the Council needed to appoint a new Vice Chairman. It was proposed by M. Madden, seconded by Mrs B. Brittain that Mrs M. Bolton be elected Vice Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.

262. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th January having been circulated, were taken as read, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

264. Planning applications etc.

Case No: SDNP/14/00278/H Case Officer: Miss Michelle Gardiner (Lewes DC)

Applicant: Mr B Martin

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and erection of garage/workshop with new access

Location: 6 Nye Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex, BN6 8UB

No comment. The plans were not very informative, clearer plans were required especially regarding access.

265. SDNP/14/00460/TCA 11 South Street Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8UQ

Proposal Horse Chestnut (G1 of the Order T3 on the plan) - Reduce apical growth by approximately 3 metres to suitable lower growth. Reduce lateral growth by approximately 1-2 metres (see Arboricultural Report RWG-NDJ-SCD 002)

No comment

266. Scout HQ Letter received from the Scout Group with a request from the Pre School Group for an extension of hours from 8.30am – 12.30pm Mon to Fri to 8.00am to 3.30pm Mon to Fri. Full details had been circulated. It was agreed to support the request as it was in the best interest of the Village.

Chairman

25th February 2014

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Grounds Committee held in the Parish Office on Wednesday, 12th February 2014 at 8pm.

Present, P. M. Smith in the Chair, Mrs C.M. Robinson, D. McBeth, and the Clerk.

Apologies Mrs M. Bolton and Mrs N. Banfield.

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 5th December adopted by the Parish Council on 17th December were noted.
2. Progress report on Sport England grant The Chairman reported that the Sport England agronomist had recently visited the recreation ground and was briefed by members of the Grounds Committee, the Parish Clerk and Council's grounds man. He had a complete picture of the issues and his feasibility study is expected to be with the Council by the end of February.
It was explained that the Council wanted both pitches to be drained and upgraded and in the application it was estimated that this would cost £122,150 including the first year's maintenance. This figure was arrived at by using Sport England's published cost yard sticks rather than using our own agronomist. The Sport England grant is a maximum of £50,000 and therefore we would need to raise over £70,000 from other sources.
Based on his initial impressions, the Sport England agronomist indicated that it should be possible to drain and upgrade both pitches for the full amount i.e. £120,000. This would be the best solution for Sport England and the Council.
If the Council was unable to raise this amount, then a partial drainage solution for each pitch may be possible. The alternative would be to use the lower figure to fully deal with one pitch now and try and raising further funding later to deal with the second pitch. Sport England would much prefer this alternative. It is very unlikely though that a further application to Sport England would succeed and so the funds would have to come from elsewhere.
It should be stressed that this was his initial view only and his feasibility study was required before taking any decisions. His report would detail the various options available and their costs together with the implications for the programme of works, phasing etc.
The Council of course is extremely keen to deal with both pitches and it is therefore clear that there is a need to commence discussions with a number of potential funders to see whether or not we can raise the additional £70,000 by the Spring. If we are successful, then we will need to put in place binding agreements with those organisations before the Council is able to let a works contract. The potential funders identified at present are: The Philipson Ditchling Trust; The Turner Dumbrell Foundation; The Football Foundation; The Rugby Football Union. Initial discussions with The Football Foundation indicate that it will consider making a grant once they have seen the agronomist's feasibility study. It is unlikely to offer a large grant but would be able to make a decision quickly.
An information meeting with the Philipson Ditchling Trust was being held on Monday 17th February for an initial discussion. The Trust has already written in a positive vein to the Council on the subject.
3. Progress report on legal matters Current expenditure incurred by Hedleys to be circulated for information. It was noted that to date £414.00 had been spent on professional fees.
4. Progress report on match funding No formal offers to date, the Agronomist report would be the key factor when making formal approaches.
5. Publicity It was noted that there was a reference in the Beacon and the Ditchling Dialogue.

Chairman

25th February 2014