

Ditchling Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Old Meeting House on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at 8pm.

Present D. Mc Beth in the Chair, Mrs M Bolton, Mrs C.M. Robinson, A.T. Jones, M. Madden, P.M. Smith, and the Clerk Mrs Mary Holman.

Apologies, Mrs B. Brittain (hospital), Mrs N. Banfield (work)

327. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 8th April having been circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.
328. Minutes of The Grounds Committee Meeting held on 10th April, proposed by P. M. Smith, seconded and agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record, signed by the Chairman and adopted by the Council
329. Minute 297 Spatham Lane & Speeding. It was noted that there was nothing new to report.
330. Minute 298 Neighbourhood Plan It was reported that the questionnaires were being produced for distribution in May; it was noted that Arundel had had its Plan passed through the referendum stage; the new website was now on line; quotations were being sought for the Sustainability Appraisal.
331. Minute 299 Suggested additional Car Park in Keymer Road It was noted that the meeting of the Sub Group had been held, it had been agreed to ask that the project for Middle Bolland's Field was specified in the questionnaire for the Neighbourhood Plan, The Clerk was contacting the various authorities regarding who would carry out the reports outlined in the Pre app advice and the possible costs involved..
332. Minute 301 Tree planting to commemorate First World War Photos indicating possible sites had been circulated it was agreed to ask for two weeping willows which would be planted on the agreed sites on the Burial Ground Drive..
333. Minute 303 Quotations were being sought for the following. It was noted that new firms were being approached for quotations.
Yellow self closing gate on southern fence of children's Play area – this may need to be renewed.
Replacement of fence on both sides of the Burial Ground entrance from Lewes Road. This has rotted and been damaged by the wind.
334. Minute 304 Fly problem in Ditchling 2012 & 2013 It was noted that 190 Red Top fly traps had been collected by residents so far.
335. Minute 307 Ditchling Parish Council and the Ditchling Fair 2014. It was agreed that the Council and Neighbourhood Planning Team would have a Stall if the Chairman was available on that date.
336. Minute 315 Parking in Lodge Hill Lane Response received that the Council's comments had been noted and details included with other responses.
337. Minute 316 Burgess Hill Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan Consultation This could be viewed on www.burgesshill.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan. The Clerk had filled in the necessary form asking for a meeting but no response had been received.
338. Minute 325 New Standing Orders Councillors had been through the documents and made the necessary adaptations. The revised document had been circulated and was adopted.
339. Minute 320 The National Park Local Plan Options Consultation Document and the Preliminary Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule It was noted that these could be viewed on www.consult.southdowns.gov.uk The Chairman had circulated the document for the responses to be collated but it had proved to be very complicated. It was agreed not to respond.
340. Minute 1 Grounds Committee -Upgrading of pitches the Chairman explained that it was recommended to look into the low cost option of drainage not leveling as it would mean that the pitch would be too small for Rugby or Football, the agronomist would like further investigations carried out to ascertain the position, depth etc of drains, sewers etc., this would cost £1500. The maintenance charges etc which had been quoted had not taken into consideration the work carried out by the Groundsman or the equipment used currently, these details had been forwarded to the Agronomist. The question of financing was discussed and the impact it would have on the Clubs, the new grant from LDC for Recreation Grounds was mentioned as it could be used to offset some of the charge.

341. Minute 2 Grounds Committee - Re-siting of seats from under the Ash Tree. It was agreed to re-site one by the Children's play area, one by the northern hedge and the third to replace one by the eastern hedge.
342. SNDP/14/01501/HOUS 36 East End Lane
Front extension and conversion of garage for Mrs P. Napier
No comment.
343. SNDP/14/01710/HOUS 11 The Fieldway
First floor extension for Mrs H. Hinkley.
No comment
344. SNDP/01788/14/Ful land rear of 50A Lewes Road
Amendment to planning application SNDP/13/03810/FUL (single storey dwelling with basement) alterations to windows and doors for Mr A. Dawson.
No comment
345. Finance matters
a) Checklist for Audit and Insurance Details were laid on the table, having been scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers.
- b) Accounts for payment. The list having been circulated prior to the meeting and scrutinised by one of the Financial Controllers were agreed for payment and the cheques signed by D. McBeth and A.T. Junes.
- c) Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial No 493 was signed.
346. Notice of Road Closures received for Fair Day 21st June. This was noted.
347. Countryside Voice and Open Space Magazine received.
348. Matters raised by Councillors
Mark Madden – painting of street lights. It was noted that nearly all the lamp posts had had to have a second coat as they had not been painted since 2003.
349. Don McBeth - 1) The future of Ditchling Post Office. It was agreed that if possible, the Post Office should become a Community Post Office, The Chairman and A.T. Jones would work with David Holmes to this end.
2) Any update on ESCC use of Ditchling Common for grazing cattle. The Chairman was asked to indicate when he would be available for the meeting.
350. Lewes District Council Report. A.T. Jones
351. Written reports by representatives No written reports received to date.
Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs B. Brittain
Ditchling Pavilion Club -Mrs C. M. Robinson.
The Ditchling Society –Mrs Margaret Bolton
Ditchling Village Association – Mrs C.M. Robinson
Lewes District Association of Local Councils (two representatives) – D. Mc Beth and P. Smith.
352. Matters raised by Councillors for exchange of information only. P.M. Smith reported that he had become Chairman of the Village Hall management Committee.

Chairman

13th May 2014

Present P/M/ Smith in the Chair, Mrs M. Bolton, Mrs C. M. Robinson and the Clerk.

1. Sport England and the proposed works. The Chairman updated the Committee on the current position, the geophysical survey had been carried out and the results received earlier. Details were awaited as to the siting of the trench to gauge the whereabouts of the sewers etc. he had heard from the Football Association that they would not be making a grant, the £50,000 from the Phillipson Trust had to be confirmed, the Clerk would ask for the application form, the £1,000 requested from the DVA still had to be confirmed, £5,000 was expected from the Turner Dumbrell Foundation but still had to be confirmed, The Rugby Club was hoping to obtain £5,000 from the RFU this needed to be chased. It was suggested that Brighton and Hove FC could be approached. Some figures had been produced indicating possible costing for maintenance, it appeared that the Clubs would need to have their rents increased to bring in £5,000 and the Council would also need to find £5,000 per annum. Details of other rents had been received for comparison. LDC would be providing details of the charges they pay for some of extra maintenance works involved and the up to date quotation for maintenance was still awaited from the agronomist following receipt of the council's equipment etc.
2. Preparation for informal meeting with Clubs on 12th May It was agreed that the Clubs should be presented with facts regarding the rents etc in order to establish the way forward. The Chairman pointed out that the Agronomist had stated that a number of these offers had failed due to the financial impact of maintenance.
3. Procedures It was necessary to prepare a firm proposal to put to the Council Meeting on 27th for discussion and decision.

Chairman

13th May 2014

Grounds Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held in the Parish Office on 10th April at 8pm.

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

Apologies D. McBeth (prior engagement)

1. Upgrading Sports Pitches It was recommended that the way forward was to support Developments Option 4S/1N (£129,621) as the preferred solution i.e. levelling N pitch and draining both N & S pitches. This will require a further site investigation (SI) to check on the constraints of the existing drainage traversing N pitch at an estimated cost of £1,500 + VAT but, if levelling is feasible, the SI will allow for a full design approach to be taken. This could be carried out in May. It would involve digging a shallow trench across the pitch thereby preventing further matches taking place on N pitch this season. This cost would be met by the Sport England grant.
It was agreed to obtain a list of equipment owned by the PC which would be used to maintain the newly upgraded pitches to the Sports England standard, the work which was covered at the moment by the groundsman and the cost of hiring the equipment etc to carry out the tasks as stated in Appendix 11 of the Feasibility Study. The on-going maintenance costs would be discussed with the Clubs at the informal meeting on 17th April as there would need to be a very high increase in the rents towards this.
Inquiries had been made from various sources regarding additional funding but to date had been unsuccessful. An application was being made to the Turner Dumbrell Foundation as per the original application document, replies were still awaited from the RFU and the Football Association.
2. Re-siting of seats which have to be moved away from the Ash Tree It was agreed to recommend that three seats be re-sited as follows, one by the play area facing the Downs, the second against the hedge facing the cricket ground and the third replacing one on the eastern side of the ground which would replace one which was removed.

Chairman

22nd April 2014