

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT** Committee held virtually on 22 October 2020 at 7.30pm.

Attendees: Cllrs Jane Baker, Frances Gaudencio, Bill Hatton and Frank Rylance.

In attendance: Tracy Forte – Deputy Clerk
Ian Cumberworth – Parish Clerk
Cllr Claire Tester
Cllr Sue Hatton (from item 3)

GE20/31 APOLOGIES. Cllrs Leslie Campbell, Peter Gibbons and David Hammond and co-opted member Tony Copeland. Absent without apology Cllrs Kate Bailey, Kristian Berggreen and Alex Simmons

GE20/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

GE20/33 MINUTES.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Grounds & Environment meeting held 3 September 2020 be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Sue Hatton joined the meeting.

GE20/34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. There were no members of the Public present.

GE20/35 OFFICER'S REPORT. Member's noted the Officer's report. The Clerk drew Member's attention to item 3, Talbot Field, regarding concerns which have been raised over trees which are impacting on the garden of a neighbouring property. Although the Council has previously installed a root barrier at a cost of several thousand pounds, it appears that the barrier is being breached causing roots to appear in the owner's garden. The owners have submitted a request for the Council to resolve this issue. Members were asked to note that this matter would be referred to again in Item 9 of the agenda regarding a tree safety survey.

GE 20/36 MOBILE REFUSE COLLECTIONS. Members noted correspondence from MSDC regarding the ceasing of the Mobile Refuse Service.

GE 20/37 ADASTRA PARK MASTERPLAN. The Clerk informed Members that the Park Working Group meetings had reconvened and the group is currently exploring potential workstreams/initiatives which will come forward to the committee for consideration once they have been developed further.

GE 20/38 DOG WASTE BIN. At the G&E meeting held on 3 September 2020 Members considered a request from the South Bank Residents Association (SBRA) for the Parish Council to adopt responsibility for a dog waste bin which was installed privately by a resident of South Bank some years ago. Following consideration of the request at the previous meeting, the Deputy Clerk was instructed to acquire further information in order for the Committee to make a decision.

As an update, The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that an email had been sent to the District Councillors requesting that the District Council was urged to review the current policy to refuse all requests for the installation of new dog bins and the lack of responsibility for the installation and collection of dog bins on adopted estates and roads.

Cllr Sue Hatton informed Members that she had followed this up and had received a response from the Divisional Leader at MSDC for Commercial Services and Contracts. Cllr Hatton shared the response with the Committee which clarified that the District Council has not made a formal decision to provide no more dog bins, however it is the case that MSDC has very limited capacity at this time to accommodate the emptying and servicing of any additional bins, and are therefore resisting requests unless and until a demonstrable need can be identified. Where there is evidence of need, the District will do what it can to accommodate the request by considering opportunities for rationalisation elsewhere on the round and/or varying emptying frequencies.

As part of the revised corporate plan adopted by Council on 30 September there is a commitment to carry out a review of the waste, recycling and street-cleaning service, with a view to implementing a full service redesign. The future approach to the provision of litter and dog waste bins will be considered as part of this review.

It was also confirmed that the Council has no jurisdiction over, or responsibility for private land. Where land on new developments is not adopted, the responsibility for street cleaning, and the provision and emptying of litter bins, would rest with the developer and/ or any management company they choose to establish to oversee the ongoing management of the development.

In the Officer's report included with the agenda, the Deputy Clerk had informed Members that it had proven difficult to obtain estimates for costs to empty dog bins from private contractors. However an indicative quote has given the cost of £12.50 plus VAT per week to empty one bin, or in the region of £6.00 plus VAT per bin if awarded the contract for the emptying all HPC dog waste bins in Hassocks. This compares with £3.05 plus VAT per bin under the current MSDC contract.

Following this information, the Committee agreed that it had considered the request as far it could but without the support of MSDC with the provision and emptying of bins on private estates, the Parish could not agree to fund the emptying of the bin on South Bank without being prepared to do so for all private estates in Hassocks. Therefore, the Committee requested the Deputy Clerk to contact the representative from the SBRA to explain that the Council had endeavoured to find a solution to assist the SBRA with the emptying of the dog bin, but would unfortunately not be able to adopt the bin at this current time.

GE 20/39 TREE SAFETY SURVEY. Tree Safety Survey. The Clerk advised Members that a Tree Safety Survey is about to be commissioned to undertake a safety inspection of all trees on Hassocks Parish Council owned land: Adastra Park, Parklands Copse and Talbot Field. The total cost of the commission will be £850 and will be met from the tree budget. As part of this survey, it has been agreed that the specific issue with trees in Talbot Field (as referred to in the Officer's report) would also be included. The contractor will inspect the trees concerned and provide advice on possible courses of action.

GE 20/40 URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda. There were no urgent matters.

GE 20/41 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 3 December 2020 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

SignedChair Date.....