

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **POLICY, RESOURCES and COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** virtual meeting held on **Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 10.30 pm**

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Frances Gaudencio, Peter Gibbons, Ian Weir and David Hammond.

Visiting members: Nick Owens

Clerk: Ian Cumberworth

Due to initial technical issues in joining the meeting experienced by Cllr Gaudencio, Cllr Weir acted as the Chair and Cllr Gaudencio joined the meeting at a later point.

**PRC20/10 APOLOGIES:** Kate Bailey, Sue Hatton and Frank Rylance.

**PRC20/11 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** None declared.

### **PRC20/12 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as previously circulated were accepted.

### **PRC20/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

There were no members of the public present.

### **PRC20/14 CLERKS REPORT**

**20/14.1 Financial Accounts – Budget position** – The Clerk introduced the report summarising the budget position as at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and drew member's attention to a narrative in the report covering some of the affected income and expenditure areas. Members were advised that with the impact of the pandemic and the potential of ongoing restrictions there is likely to be further impact on the Council's miscellaneous income streams and in particular those related to the park. At this point it is difficult to predict accurately for the remainder of the year as figures may be influenced by any future government interventions.

Earlier in the year the Council applied a discount to both the bowls club and tennis clubs fees to reflect the unavailability of facilities due to the lockdown and the pavilion remains closed therefore income from this source will be significantly affected.

Members were reminded that the Council had recently received a small business grant as part of the governments' Covid 19 support package that could be used to offset some of the additional costs or loss of revenue as a result of the pandemic.

The Clerk invited questions from the members; members sought clarification on a number of budgets which were responded to by the Clerk. Members were satisfied with the explanations provided and agreed to note the report

**20/14.2 Communication** the Clerk advised members that an article had recently been published as a double-page spread in Hassocks Life covering a general update on the work of the Parish Council over recent months and an article on the play areas and the Covid guidance associated with them.

Members felt the articles were well presented and portrayed a positive image for the Council.

Members were keen to promote communications through this publication and a discussion ensued around the possibility of some of the Committee chairs drafting future articles for inclusion in the publication to publicise the work of the committees which was welcomed by those members present.

Some thought was given to the type of matters the Council may wish to produce.

As the Chair of the Planning Committee was present it was suggested he may wish to produce an item on the current national planning consultation and the Council's response. It was noted that Hassocks MP had also recently stood up in parliament against the proposed changes.

Subject to their being sufficient lead in time to meet the copy-date the Chair of Planning undertook to draft a suitable article for inclusion. The Clerk undertook to provide the copy-date information to Cllr Owens.

**20/14.3 Business Plan** Cllr Gaudencio introduced this item jointly with Cllr Weir. Members were informed that at the previous PR & C meeting it was agreed that Cllr Gaudencio and Cllr Weir would review the current plan and review the progress on initiatives to date and to assess some of the priorities of the work streams and agree to sign off any that had been completed. The two members had met and agreed a way forward. The intention is to replicate a table produced in the previous business plan setting out a list of actions and indication of the timeframe for their delivery. This will then enable the Council to produce an up to date position statement of what has been done which can then be incorporated into the Council's Annual report. Cllr Weir indicated that this piece of work will be brought back to Policy Resources and Communications Committee at a future date for consideration.

**20/14.4 Section 106 Agreements.** The Clerk introduced this report and advised members that it set out a summary position of section 106 funds held within the parish which comprised of total monies collected, funds spent, identified project balance remaining and non-identified balance remaining.

Based on the funding statement the following funds have yet to be allocated to specific initiatives:

Formal Sport	£42,881.63
Community Buildings	£ 4,872.33
Public Art	£10,393.31
Local Community Infrastructure	£13,349.19

The Clerk advised members that further s106 funding will be realised later in the year once the properties being built at the old sorting office in Keymer road have been occupied. Members were advised that funds had to be expended in line with the designated categories in agreement with the s106 agreement terms and could not be transferred between the different categories.

Members raised a range of questions with the Clerk regarding this source of funding which the Clerk responded to and it was acknowledged that the Council will need to continue to seek additional funding streams to support the delivery of the business plan. The clerk undertook to distribute the s106 spreadsheet with the links detailing further detail on the schemes funded/supported by s106 funding.

Members briefly discussed some possible uses of the funds to support the Councils priorities, some of which will be considered by the Park Working Group, and also the possibilities of accessing additional funding streams

**PRC20/15 Urgent Matters.** There were no urgent matters.

**PRC20/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**PRC20/17 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS** In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted Councillors will be referred to the confidential agenda. If any members of the public or press are present they will be requested to withdraw from the meeting.